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Annual Report of the Selectmen and Superintending School Committee, of the Town of Peru, For the Years Ending February 21, 1883

Peru (Me.)

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

OF THE









For the year ending February 21,





CANTON: TELEPHONE STEAM JOB PRINT. 1883.

15926

Report of Selectmen.

on the dollar, 14 mills. Overlay, State Tax, County Tax, Raised for maintenance and support of schools, " " support of poor, interest on town debt, roads and bridges, town officers' bills, and in- cidental expenses, Deficient highway, Total amt. committed to H. Turner, collector, Supplies from Treasurer during the year, Total, Total, Total, Total, Source for the farm personal property as follows: 2 oxen, \$125; 4 cows, 130; 4 two-year-olds, 75; 4 yearlings,	Total valuation of real and personal estates, in round numbers, April 1, 1882, \$19 No. of Polls, 170. Poll Tax, \$2 50. Percentage	98,800 c	ю
Overlay,65 61State Tax,1,114 53County Tax,247 16Raised for maintenance and support of schools,779 98'' '' support of poor, interest on town debt,779 98roads and bridges, town officers' bills, and in-1,000 00Deficient highway,5 25Total amt. committed to H. Turner, collector,3,212 54TOWN FARM.Yal. of personal property on farm last report,\$696 40Supplies from Treasurer during the year,78 22Total,\$774 62There is now on the farm personal property as follows:	on the dollar, 14 mills.		
County Tax,247 16Raised for maintenance and support of schools,779 98" support of poor, interest on town debt,779 98roads and bridges, town officers' bills, and in-1,000 00Deficient highway,5 25Total amt. committed to H. Turner, collector,3,212 54TOWN FARM.TOWN FARM.Val. of personal property on farm last report,\$696 40Supplies from Treasurer during the year,78 22Total,\$774 62There is now on the farm personal property as follows:		65 6	51
Raised for maintenance and support of schools, " support of poor, interest on town debt, roads and bridges, town officers' bills, and in- cidental expenses, Deficient highway,779 98Total amt. committed to H. Turner, collector, TOWN FARM.1,000 00 5 25Val. of personal property on farm last report, Supplies from Treasurer during the year,\$696 40 78 22Total,\$774 62 \$774 62There is now on the farm personal property as follows:	State Tax,	1,114 5	53
 " " support of poor, interest on town debt, roads and bridges, town officers' bills, and incidental expenses, I,000 00 5 25 Deficient highway, 5 25 Total amt. committed to H. Turner, collector, 3,212 54 TOWN FARM. Val. of personal property on farm last report, Supplies from Treasurer during the year, 78 22 Total, \$774 62 There is now on the farm personal property as follows: 	County Tax,	247 I	:6
roads and bridges, town officers' bills, and in- cidental expenses, 1,000 00 Deficient highway, 5 25 Total amt. committed to H. Turner, collector, 3,212 54 TOWN FARM. Val. of personal property on farm last report, \$696 40 Supplies from Treasurer during the year, 78 22 Total, \$774 62 There is now on the farm personal property as follows:		779 9	.)8
Deficient highway,5 25Total amt. committed to H. Turner, collector,3,212 54TOWN FARM.TOWN FARM.Val. of personal property on farm last report,\$696 40Supplies from Treasurer during the year,78 22Total,\$774 62There is now on the farm personal property as follows :			
Total amt. committed to H. Turner, collector,3,212 54TOWN FARM.TOWN FARM.Val. of personal property on farm last report,\$696 40Supplies from Treasurer during the year,78 22Total,\$774 62There is now on the farm personal property as follows:		1,000 0)0
TOWN FARM.Val. of personal property on farm last report, Supplies from Treasurer during the year,\$696 40 78 22Total,78 22Total,\$774 62There is now on the farm personal property as follows:	Deficient highway,	5 2	25
Val. of personal property on farm last report, Supplies from Treasurer during the year,\$696 40 78 22Total, $$774 62$ There is now on the farm personal property as follows:		3,212 5	 54
Supplies from Treasurer during the year, $78 22$ Total, $$774 62$ There is now on the farm personal property as follows:		ФС (
Total, There is now on the farm personal property as follows:			-
There is now on the farm personal property as follows:	Supplies from Treasurer during the year,	78 2	12
There is now on the farm personal property as follows:	Total,	\$774 (52

50; 1 swine, 10; fowls, 11; hay, 84: oats 445; wheat, 385;

beans, 4 50; potatoes, 20; pork, 18 75; flour, 3 75; lard, 1 75; butter, .50; molasses, .50; sugar, .40; dried apple, 3; soda, .10; soap, .84; tea, .13; ashes, 1 57; shorts, .60; \$549 82 spices, .13; total, Farming tools, household furniture, bedding, etc.. 223 77 Sold oxen for 125. Cost of those now on farm, 110. gain, 15 00 Due for pasturing, IO 00 \$798 59 Total assets, Debt brought down, with Supt's. salary (\$175) \$959 62 added,

Total assets,

Balance against the farm, \$151 03 Provision from the farm has been furnished to poor not

798 59

on the farm, which if properly credited would lessen this balance.

EXPENSES OF POOR NOT ON THE FARM.

Joseph Sampson's family,	\$87 77
Edwin Austin's family,	36 00
Daniel Haines' family,	35 00
Elmira Bonney,	26 00
Lydia Tufts.	26 00
John Redding, clothing,	15 00
Poland boy at Knox's.	25 00
Poland boy at Richardson's.	13.00
Poland boy at Minot, doctor's bill.	5 00
James B. Polan, l's family,	
A. P. Gibbs' wife, doctor's bill,	6 50 8 25
Joel White at Jay, including the doctor's bill, $$2$,	26 00
Supplies and furnishings in town, Pension affidavit	
and cash expense,	47 95
Mrs. Wheeler Tracy at Oxford, 50; D. W. Knigh	
for removing remains, 6 ; digging grave. 1 ; total	
W. H. Bray at Insane Hospital, Augusta.	30 85
C. E. Philoon, medical attendance.	35 00
Z. W. Bartlett, 2 75, medicine25,	3 00
B. W. Tingley, attendance of E. Austin.	5 50
Total.	\$489 82

4

CASH EXPENSE OF ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Green-woods road. \$31 68: east side of Worthly Pond, 12 50; Wm. Thomas road and Homer Child bridge, 69 65: B. C. Foster road, 104 33: river road, ledge near H. W. Babb's, 2 90; Speer's stream road, labor, plank and snow fence. 14 50: J. C. Wyman District. 6 31: Thaddeus Oldham District. 20 39; bridge near Winslow Walker's, 6; C. J. Tracy's District, 6; Haines and Austin District, 6; Knox District, 6; plank for bridge east part of town, 17 36; A. J. Churchill District. 7 74; total, \$311 36

We have built the new road laid out and accepted by the town, for the benefit of the Town farm neighborhood, at a cost of land damage, \$49; cost of building, 66 50; total, 115 50. The land purchased of the Bailey estate, agreeable to a vote of the town, is to be paid for when deeded.

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES ACCRUED WITHIN THE YEAR.

The Eliza A. Poland suit, so far as known,	\$51 00
Thomas suit,	37 25
Rent of Meeting house,	20 00
Recording Tax deeds,	I OO
Books, stationery, postage and traveling expense,	25 00

Total,

\$134 25

5

We have paid the following bills, accrued prior to the year: Foster's attorney fee in Small suit, \$47, and in Sampson suit, 6; claim of Sampson suit, 175; N. Hollis' pauper bill of '79, 8 14; Dr. Sturgis' bill of '80 & '81, 4 50.

TOWN OFFICERS' BILLS.

- H. S. McIntire, selectman and overseer of poor, in town, 49, out, 6,
- H. Turner, selectman and overseer of poor, in town, 33, out, 17,

G. O. Hussey, selectman and overseer of poor,

\$55 00

50 00

in town, 30, out, 9,	45 00
Winslow Walker, Town Clerk,	10 00
W. H. Walker, Treasurer,	20 00
A. B. Walker, School Committee,	20 00
H. Turner, "	25 00
F. A. DeLano, "	12 50
Collector's percentage,	44 97

\$282 47

TOWN FARM BUILDINGS.

Owing to the very disagreeable disability of Mr. Barton, and the consequent exposure to the health of the other inmates of the house, we have furnished him quarters somewhat remote, also partially finished a bed-room adjoining. Expense of material, with that remaining to finish these rooms, and the necessary labor in addion to that of Supt., \$35 25. This is added to the apprisal.

RECAPITULATION.

Supplies to Town Farm,	78 82
New rooms there,	35 25
Expenses of poor not on farm,	489 82
Roads and bridges,	311 36
New road,	115 50
Officers' bills,	282 47
Incidentals,	134 25
Printing this Report,	15 00
Balance against Town farm,	151 03
Total,	\$1,613 50
Means not otherwise appropriated, to pay,	1,070 86
Balance,	\$542 64

Leaving a balance, in round numbers, of five hundred dollars against the year's transactions. We ask all disposed to criticise the result, to bear in mind that the amount raised for currant expenses the present year, was actually five hundred dollars less than usual, as compared with the two years next preceeding; that much of the benefit arising from a large portion of the excess, is not confined to the year, but will continue for years. Illustrated in the well wrought turnpike in the Foster District, with all new culverts; timber in readiness to build two bridges new; the new road near Town farm, which will pay for itself, including the purchase of the Bailey estate, in the increased value of the Town farm when sold; the new rooms and the young orchard at Town farm; and some allowance is due to the unexpected Thomas suit, also the expense of Bray at Augusta. But with all the extra burdens, we have made a saving of over fifty dollars of the expense of poor not on farm, compared with last year. Mr. White promises to pay the town all of his expense, when he gets his pension.

TREASURER'S AFFAIRS.

We find the Treas. has received from all sources, \$5,847 36 He has turned over to us orders and receipts to, 2,963 47 Leaving a balance as follows: Due on O. Robinson's collection of '79, \$29 77 H. Turner's collection of '81, 823 79 H. Turner's collection of '82, 1,850 85 Goff & Merrill's note, 49 41 Cash, 130 07 Total, \$2.883 89

FINANCIAL STANDING OF TOWN.

Outstanding Orders to Dec. 28, '82,	\$11,267 34
Interest due as near as can be ascertained,	1,183 16
Due School Districts,	247 51
Bills due, Orders not drawn, (estimate)	400 00

Total,

ASSETS.

Resources in Treasury,	\$2,883 89
Note of Hiram Oldham, 2d,	40 00
" " Benjamin F. Oldham,	25 00

Due from H. S. McIntire, 10 50 Town farm, stock, furnishings, ect., (estimate) 1,357 36 Timber land, 100 00

Total.

\$4,416 75

\$13,128 01

Liabilities, Resources, \$13,128 01 4,416 75

Balance,

\$8,711 26

REMARKS.

In the above estimates of interest, all interest bearing orders are included, as also are others which appear *unchecked* upon the order books. The interest has been computed from date of order, where no record exists of a later payment. In checking orders received from Treasurer, the chairman of this board has perceived by his own experience, the liability to filing orders unchecked, by orders sticking

together in handling. With this idea, he has compared several years' orders with the records, and has found several small orders that had not been checked. He will continue the search until the annual meeting. There was found among papers of a former Selectman, two small orders, branded, but not cheeked off the books. This suggests the thought that there may be others, like the Irishman's milk, "lying loose around." For these and other reasons, we think the reported outstanding orders may be too large.

The suit, Buckfield vs. Peru, was settled. The suit. Peru vs. Poland, was tried last term, resulting in favor of the town, but was carried to the full court, on points of law, by the defendant's counsel.

The unfortunate accident on the, so called, Homer Child bridge, has been a source of some perplexity to the municipal officers. The law requires that the municipal officers shall, within a specified time, be notified of the nature and extent of the injuries for which damages are claimed. that the officers may inquire into and investigate the nature and extent of the injury, as well as the foundation of the claim; yet we were met, in the onset of the inquiry in this case, with a point blank refusal to see, or even pass the open door of the room in which the person claiming damages was said to be lying, and not till after repeated refusals did we succeed in getting admission to competent physicians, to learn if the person was receiving the skillful treatment she should receive, if the town was to be held responsible for damages. We have been kept in a state of uncertainty till quite recently, when we were met with the modest demand for one thousand five hundred dollars damage, which was followed in quick succession by a writ, and a citation to take deposition. The matter will come before you under an article in the warrant for annual town meeting. In closing this report we cannot refrain from expressing the hope that the town will, in the annual meeting, raise sufficient money to pay what years of experience has proved to be the current yearly expenses. The chairman of this board, regarding this his last official act in the town, in the welfare of which he feels a deep interest, and while expressing his heartfelt thanks for the many honors conferred and confidence reposed in him, in the past; and realizing that he may have been, to some extent, the bone of contention and political antagonism, in some instances culminating in scenes not wholly creditable to us as a people; and while

A STREET STREET

thankfully retiring from the arduous, and sometimes disagreeable duties, respectfully expresses the hope that the spirit of party antagonism may be so far laid aside as to prevent the recurrence of those scenes which so much detract from the good name of the town, in which we should feel is reflected the character of its people, and also to give to your duly elected officers that support and *means* their official duties require. Then, indeed, shall we perceive the cloud has a silver lining.

Respectfully submitted,

H. S. McINTIRE, HOLLIS TURNER, GEO. O. HUSSEY, Selectmen of Peru.



Agreeable to the vote of the town, last March, we give, so far as able to ascertain, a list of the interest bearing orders, with the rate of interest and dates to which interest was last paid, as per record of Treasurer.

OUTSTANDING ORDERS.

To L. H. Demeritt, Mar. 19, 1880. Interest paid \$780 00 Mar. 19, 1882, 5 per cent., S. E. Griffith, July 22, '78. No record of int., 48 24 Susie E. Farrington, July 29, '78. No record of int., 25 60 Florilla W. Hall, May 10, '79. 5 per cent., 50 00 Interest paid Catherine P. Fox, May 10, '79. to May 10, '82, 5 per cent., 200 00 Noah Hall, May 10, '79, 100 00 int. pd. May 10, '82, Almeda Irish, " 250 00 Florentine L. Jackson, 6 100 00 Belinda Griffith. 500 00 Mary B. Lunt, 300 00 Seth Babb, 100 00 Sarah J. Goding, ٤. 225 00 Dana W. Goding. 475 00

Dana W. Obumg,					4/3 00
Polly Turner,	6	•	٠	ŝ.	50 00
Benj. Alden.	*	6	6	۲	1,000 00
Mary A. Knight,	6			6	220 00
Wm. L. Knight,	•	1		•	300 00
Mary H. Lovejoy,	•			•	100 001
	6			•	200 00
66 66	6			6	2,750 00
Dean Lunt, June 28,	'79, in	t.pd.Jun	e 28,'82.	-	160 70
66 68 6	6		6	•	261 00
Herbert Davenport,	Mar. 2	6, '80,		•	100 00
Lorin Hersey, July 1	5,'So, i	int. pd. Ju	ly 15, '82	5	700 00
Cyrus Hersey, '	\$	•	h	•	300 00
John Griffith, May 12	2,'81, i	nt. pd. Ma	ay 12, '82	5	150 00
Dana W. Goding, 1		•	13/	•	50 00
Josiah Hall, Dec. 3	6			· ·	150 00
O. L. Knight, Mar.	22, '82	•		•	400 00
John Knight, '	6			•	115 00
O. L. Knight, Apr.	15, 82.			ŝ.	30 00
Ellen P. Lyford, '					78 50
			9		

Sidney Oldham, De	c.9,'79. I	No recoi	d of in		
		presu	imed 6	per cent.,	8 00
Henry Rowe, Feb.	27, '80,	L	4	6	
6 6	ζ ,		4		14 23
Noah Hall, Mar. 13	. '80		•	4	15 20
A. W. Smith, Mar.			•		5.58
					61 75
Lorenzo Knight.					6 32
A. L. Haines, May			•		27 00
Henry Rowe, Mar.	~		*		41 00
Sidney A. Austin,	•		•		22 60
R. A. Knight,	30 '		6	6	5 79
۷ ۵ ۷	6		•	•	
Hiram E. Stillman,	Apr. 17,	'80,	٠		35 75
Marcellus S. Atkins		6			77 21
B. C. Foster,		4	•		23 20
Levi Randall,	-		•		7 40
J. C. Wing,			•		871
	May 17,				4 20
Noah Hall,	Nov. 19,		(5 58
	Sept. 20,		•		90 00
S. B. Brackett,	May 19,		•		12 55
A. F. Burgess,	Oct. 29,		٠		67 25
Ellen P. Carver,	Mar. 16,	'81	6		78 40
R. A. Knight,	19	6	6		
S. A. Austin,	24		6	4	70 00
W. H. Walker,	Apr. 9	4	6	4	23 20
John Tufts,	18	4	6		20 00
H. S. McIntire,		4	6	6	13 00
	Mor 7	6			50 00
Maniana Variadat	Mar. 7	4		2	25 00
Mariam Knight.	Jan. 30,				6 50
Florilla L. Hall.	Aug. 20				38 50
John Knight,	Mar. 21	6	•	L	100 00
Cynthia Atkins,	Apr. 29	4	•	٤	20 00
Relief E. Knight,	Dec. 28	'82,	4	4	14 38

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Report of School Committee.

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DISTRICT No. 1. (East Peru.)

Summer Term.—Miss Sadie Hall. This was her first term, and she tried hard to make it a success, but owing to sickness there was a two weeks' vacation, which diminished the interest and profit of the school. We think that with hard study she will make a successful teacher. Length of school, in weeks. 7 3-11; whole number pupils, 12; average, 10; wages of teacher, excluding board, \$1.75; price of board, \$1.25 per week. Number of pupils not absent $\frac{1}{2}$ day, 2.

Winter term.—Miss Florilla L. Hall. This school showed commendable progress, and gave, we think, good satisfaction to the District. The teacher gave the pupils a good drill. Length of school, in weeks, 7: whole number pupils, 14: average, 13: wages of teacher, \$3.00; price of board. \$1.50 per week. Number of pupils not absent $\frac{1}{2}$ day, 6. Number of daily recitations, 24; in history, 2; in physiology, 1.

DISTRICT No. 2. (River road.)

Fall term.—Miss Verdurina Ludden, of Dixfield. This teacher has a wonderful tact for superintending a school. She posesses the magic power of securing the best obedience of her pupils, and at the same time retains their utmost respect and confidence, and all without punishment. She is a fine scholar, and one of our first-class instructors. We hope to have more of her services in the school room. She gave almost entire satisfaction to all of the district. Length of school, in weeks, 8: whole number pupils, 12; average, 10: wages of teacher, excluding board, \$3.00; price of board, \$1.00 per week. Number of pupils not absent one half day, 2. Number of daily recitations, 32; one pupil in algebra and Latin, three in history. Number of visits by citizens, 5. Number in Dist. between 7 and 15 years, not attending, 1.

Winter term.—Mrs. May F. Robinson. As usual, this teacher exhibited the best of interest in her work. We judge she believes in the injunction, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." There was a good degree of interest on the part of the scholars, and we are

pleased to know that the citizens exhibited the best of interest, and approbation also, in visiting the school occasionally. Rating of the pupils, good. Length of school, in weeks, 12; whole number of pupils, 12: average, 10; wages of teacher, including board. \$5.00 per week. Number not absent one half day, 2. Number of daily recitations, 26; number in physiology, 3; in algebra, 2. Number of visits by citizens, 7.

DISTRICT No. 3. (West Peru.)

Fall term.—Miss Flora Alden, of Livermore. The school appeared well at both visits, and showed at the elose commendable improvement in the studies. We think this term proved a success. We have said before, that Miss Alden brings to bear refinement, dignity, scholarly attainments, and enforces good discipline in the school room, and we think she sustained here her former reputation. Length of school in weeks, S: whole number pupils, 15: average, 13: wages of teacher, excluding board, \$5 per week; price of board, \$2 per week: number of daily recitations, 24; number of pupils in Composition, 8.

Winter term.—Miss Flora Alden, this being her 16th term, and 3d in town. At our first visit we found the school in a flourishing condition. Later during the term difficulties arose, which finally resulted in the withdrawal of several scholars from the school. The pupils present at the close manifested a good degree of interest and showed good advancement. under the circumstances. Rank good. Length of school in weeks, 9; whole number pupils, 16; average, 12; wages of teacher, excluding board, \$5 per week; price of board, \$2 per week; number pupils not absent $\frac{1}{2}$ day, 1. There were some higher branches here, not mentioned in the report as made by the Committee.

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DISTRICT No. 4. (Wyman District.)

Summer term.—Miss Etta Howland. This term was quite satisfactory. Miss Howland is an excellent teacher, and we hope to have more of her services in the school room. Length of school in weeks, 9; whole number pupils, 30; average 24; wages of teacher, excluding board. \$3 per week; price of board, \$1 75 per week; number of pupils not absent 4 day, 2.

Fall term.—Miss Jennie Elliott. This was her second term here. which speaks highly for her. We were well pleased with the result of her labor. Length of school in weeks, 8: whole number pupils. 34: average, 28; wages of teacher, excluding board, \$3 per week; price of board, \$1 75 per week; number of pupils not absent } day, 6.

Winter term .- F. A. DeLano. This school was visited Dec. 28th and Feb. 8th, by H. Turner, and appeared well at both visits. There was an addition of several large scholars at our second visit, and a very commendable degree of interest shown by both pupils and teacher. Nearly onehalf of the scholars attending average less than seven years of age. There is a host still younger, entrenched behind snow barriers, waiting an opportunity, the young idea to shoot. Mr. DeLano possesses many qualifications, best calculated to fit him for his calling. Easy, quiet manners. self control, strict observation of the little things that constantly appear in the pathway of science. associated with industry well sustained physically, and a love for the vocation, are his indispensible aids. School not closed at date of report. Length of school, then, in weeks, 10; whole number of pupils, 20; average, 17; wages of teacher, excluding board. \$24 per month : price of board, \$2 per week. Number of pupils not absent 3 half day. 3. Number of daily recitations, 19. Seven pupils in book-keeping. Number of pupils between 7 and 15 not attending, 9.

15

DISTRICT No. 5. (Dickvale.)

Summer term.—Miss Lydia P. Waite. She is a teacher of experience and good qualities. At first visit we found the school well organized. Not having notice when it would close, we are unable to report definitely of the progress, but presume it was good. Length of school, in weeks, 10; whole number pupils, 18; average, 13: wages of teacher, including board, \$4.25 per week.

Winter term.—Mr. L. C. Putnam. This is one of our best schools. Both teacher and scholars labored hard and success crowned their efforts. Mr. Putnam is a practical, energetic teacher, and an excellent disciplinarian. Though this is his first term in town, we hope it will not be his last. Length of school, in weeks, to; whole number pupils, 25; average, 23; wages of teacher, excluding board, \$26 per month; price of board, \$1.60 per week. Number of pu-

pils not absent ½ day. 13. Rank of school good. Several pupils in the higher English branches.

DISTRICT No. 6. (Knox District.)

Summer term.—Miss Lura Knight. She showed a good interest in her work and gave general satisfaction. Order good. Progress commendable. Rank very good. Length of school in weeks. 10; whole number pupils, 10; average, 9; wages of teacher, excluding board. \$2 50 per week. Number of daily recitations, 20.

Winter term.—Mr. Roscoe S. Kidder of Canton. This was his first term. Mr. Kidder is a fair scholar, and with experience and a little improvement in order, especially among the roguish boys, he will make a successful teacher. We recommend one improvement here. Register shows 10, between 7 and fifteen years, not attending school: if true. we hope for a reform. Length of school in weeks, 9; whole number of pupils, 11: average, 9; wages of teacher, excluding board, \$20 per month; price of board, \$1 40 per week. Number not absent $\frac{1}{2}$ day. 2. Number of daily recitations, 22.

DISTRICT No. 7. (Waite District.)

Summer term.--Miss Florence E. Wyman. Miss Wyman maintained here her well-earned reputation of a firstclass instructor. She worked hard in the discharge of her duties, and we think too hard for her health. This school, so far as we know, was quite satisfactory to all. Progress good, with creditable rank. We earnestly hope this teacher will regain her health, entire. and be able to favor us with more of her services in the school room. Length of school, in weeks, 8; whole number of pupils. 15: average, 14: wages of teacher, excluding board. \$2.50; price of board. \$1.25 per week. Number of pupils not absent 1 day. 1. Number of daily recitations, 26; number pupils in history. 3. Number between 7 and 15 years, not attending school. 2. Winter term.-Miss Lena A. McCollister. of Canton This teacher is a very creditable scholar, and possesses a good stock of self-control, and easy, quiet manners-qualities well calculated to make a successful teacher, provided they are well seasoned with energy. There was some complaint that this quality was lacking on her part. Desiring to treat her liberally. I remark by way of justification, in

some degree, that she complained of much weariness in connection with her labors; said she had not had sufficient rest since closing her previous school. There was, at least to some degree, a want of concert of action. While the school, passively inclined, was waiting her action largely, for a systematic, efficient drill in the various branches, and particularly in mathematics, she was quietly waiting to be called upon for assistance. Length of school, in weeks, 11; whole number pupils, 24; average, 20; wages of teacher, excluding board, \$4; price of board, \$1.60 per week. Number of pupils not absent ½ day, 1. Number of daily recitations, 29; number of pupils in book-keeping, 2; in physiolegy, 1; Latin and algebra, 1. Number of visits by citizens, 6.

DISTRICT No. 8. (Foot of pond.)

Summer term.—Miss May F. Keene. This teacher has taught several terms in town before, always with good success. We think this was a profitable term, and quite satisfactory to all in the District. There are some very nice scholars in this school; in fact, they are all good, and appreciate good instruction. Length of school, in weeks, 10; wages of teacher, \$3; price of board, \$1.20 per week.

Winter term.-Fred E. Carver, of Dixfield. This school proved unprofitable to the District. Mr. Carver is a young teacher with very little experience. His scholarship was passable for this school, and had he devoted his whole time and energy, in the school room and during school hours, to further the the interests of the school; had he given his pupils, individually and collectively, the full benefit of his ability to instruct, there would have been less cause for the complaint repeatedly made by a majority of poth parents and pupils, that their school was unprofitable. Trouble arising from government began in the early part of the term. As early as the third week, your committee had knowledge of the matter, and two of them accordingly visited the school the early part of the fourth week, and then found that several of the families in the District had withdrawn their scholars from the school. No one at that period had requested a public investigation, nor were we then asked to discharge the teacher; but after diligent inquiry of the teacher and several of the parents and pupils, in relation to all that had transpired, and witnessing operations in the school room for awhile, the senior members of your committee were pretty well convinced that we had the wrong

man to fill the place. However, they did not allow any distrust whatever to influence their action; at this time, nor any subsequent, till new trouble arose; but. on the contrary, actuated purely by sympathy for this young teacher, and a desire to get him through triumphantly, if possible. we used every means at our command to aid him on. Time passed on, and still more dissatisfaction arose and more parents withdrew their scholars, and the new complaint was made to your committee, or more properly the old one was renewed, and still the school was suffered to continue. Next new trouble arose. A combat was had between teacher and pupils, in which the teacher came off second best. More complaints were made to your committee, and then they were asked by several parents of the district to investigate anew, either public or private, as they thought best, and to act as their judgement dictated. Accordingly, the senior members of your committee did investigate the whole matter anew, from the beginning, by diligent enquiry of several of the parents, and pupils of the District who had attended the school most of the time, and been eye witnesses. And the aforesaid committee were fully satisfied that the school was not only unprofitable to the District, but that its continuance, in view of the strife and animosity attendant. would endanger the peace and safety of the community. Accordingly they gave the teacher a written notice to close his school immediately. Said notice was dated Feb. 10th, and was conveyed through the hands of the agent, reaching the teacher on the morning of the 12th. at a very fitting moment.

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DISTRICT No. 9. (Head of pond.)

Summer term.—Miss Mary E. Harlow. She was much interested in the progress of her pupils, did her work well and gave good satisfaction. Length of school in weeks, 8; whole number of pupils. 10: average, 9.

Winter term.—Miss Lillian F. Ellis As usual, this teacher secured the good will of her pupils, and at the same time maintained good order. We think it was a very pleasant and profitable term to the district. Length of school in weeks. 9; whole number of pupils. 15; average, 12; wages of teacher, excluding board, \$4 per week; price of board. \$3 per week. Number of daily recitations, 27; two in book-keeping, one in algebra.

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DISTRICT No. 11. (Ridge.)

Fall term.—Mr. D. F. Lunt. This was his third term in this Dlstrict, which is speaking much for him. He is one of our very best instructors, and we hope to have much more of his service in our schools. The school made rapid improvement and was most satisfactory. Length of school, in weeks, 11; whole number pupils, 15; average, 11; wages of teacher. per month, including board, \$21.70.

DISTRICT No. 8. (Foot of pond.) Free High School.

Fall term.—Miss Lillian F. Ellis, of Canton. Miss Ellis rules her pupils with love, gaining their entire esteem. They are always happy in her presence. This proved a profitable term to all, thus encouraging us to continue this kind of schooling. We hope other Districts will follow the example already given in this line. We recommend this teacher for your further consideration. She excels in encouraging and teaching the little ones. Length of school, in weeks. 10; whole number pupils, 23; average, 19; wages of teacher, excluding board, \$4 per week; price of board, \$1.70 per week. Number of pupils not absent ½ day, 4; number of daily recitations, 28; one in algebra. Number of visits by citizens, 1.

CLOSING REMARKS.

With few exceptions our schools have given, we think, general satisfaction. In a few instances the teachers have been faulty, at least, they have failed to reach our ideal, in displaying due amount of energy; but it is very gratifying to know that the majority of them are active workers. We hope that agents in the future will make it a point of duty to select early in the season, with a view to engage the very best, those that have been tried and proved every way satisfactory. In too many instances we pay for much better services than we get. We invite your attention to the importance of especial agreement as to the number of days the teacher shall work—whether 5 or $5\frac{1}{2}$ —to avoid after

misunderstanding. We ask a little more co-operation on the part of parents, in a few instances, in aiding the teacher to secure good order and obedience in the school room; though your teacher's ways may not be the best suited to your taste, put up with them, provided their good qualities over-balance their poor.

Respectfully submitted,

A. B. WALKER, H. TURNER. F. A. DELANO, Supt. School Com. of Peru.

