Annual Report of the Selectmen, Assesors and Overseers of the Poor, Supervisor of Schools, of the Town of Peru, for the Year Ending February 23, 1890

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Dixfield, Maine.
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN,

Assesors and Overseers of the Poor.

Supervisor of Schools,

OF THE

TOWN OF PERU,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 23, 1890.

HOLT BROS., JOB PRESS, DIXFIELD, ME

1890.
REPORT OF SELECTMEN.

VALUATION.

Total Valuation, $196,850 00

We have assessed a highway tax of $100,0.00 at a percentage of 4¾ mills on the dollar, and 170 polls at $1.00 each.

We have also assessed a State Tax of $682 00
A County tax of 283 81
Voted by the town to defray town charges, 2,000 00
" " " " to expend on roads & bridges, 300 00
Voted by the town for support of schools, 800 00
With an overlay of 155 68
Deficient highway of 1888, 171 52

Total commited to Wm. Woodsum, Coll., $4,393 01

Percentage of assessment for money tax 19.3 mills on the dollar. 169 polls at $2.50 each.

TOWN FARM ACCOUNT.

DR.

Since last report dated Feb. 20, 1889.

Paid Wm. S. Walker for supplies, $22 56

There is now on the farm the same personal property as at last report except two oxen, valued at $50.
By two oxen sold, $50 00

Algernon S. Knox, leased the farm, stock, farming tools and household goods for one year, commencing April 6, 1889; he is to keep Seth Jenne free from all expense to the town; also to leave three tons of hay and the other things in quantity and condition as found.

EXPENSES OF THE POOR AND THE TOWN FARM.

Paid G. G. Richardson, medical attendance on family of Josiah Frost in 1888, according to vote of town, $19 66
Paid Alma J. Farrer for boards furnished the town farm to 1888 not known at last report, 7 20
Paid Lorenzo D. Delano for meat furnished the town farm in 1888, not known at last report, 3 62

Total amount of bills paid for 1888, $30 48

EXPENSE OF POOR NOT ON THE FARM.

Paid expenses of Judith Cox, $61 00
" for keeping Ellery Poland, 10 00
" the town of Leeds for Ellsworth Haines, 18 12
" medical attendance for the family of Josiah Frost, 12 00

Total expense of poor not on the farm, $101 12
To which add the balance against the farm, 22 56

Total expense of poor for 1888, $123 68
TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

Fred O. Walker, Treasurer of Peru.

Mar. 8, '89.

To Amt. due on tax bills of '87, $638 87
" " " " " " " '88, 3,349 04
Cash on hand, 324 52
Tax deeds in hand, 65 31
Amt. due on Wm. Woodsum's bills of '89, 3,430 20
Cash from Selectmen, 6 85
Cash from Wm. Woodsum, (deficient highway,) 6 56
Cash from Wm. Woodsum, (deficient highway,) 107 00
State school fund, 446 88
Cash for rope sold, 5 75
Interest on tax deeds, 94

$8,381 92

Feb. 18, 1890.

By amount due on bills of '89, $3,430 20
" tax deeds in hand, 143 13
" orders turned over to Selectmen, 4,035 51
Cash on hand, 773 08

$8,381 92

There has been expended on roads and bridges;

Unpaid bills of 1888, $38 83
On roads and bridges for 1889, 288 00

Total, $326 83
INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

Paid for two blades for road machine, $18 25
" " school books for Geo. W. Hammond, 1 94
" O. C. Hopkins for express on books, 1 05
" on Wyman ferry, 46 44
Due the town of Dixfield, 9 65
" Dana W. Goding for postage & stationery, 1 25
Paid for blanks for town, 5 35
Estimated cost of printing this report, 8 00
Due for rent of meeting house, 20 00

Total, $111 93

TOWN OFFICER'S BILLS.

Oliver C. Hopkins, clerk, $8 00
James W. Gowell, selectman and overseer of poor, 42 20
Dana W. Goding, selectman and overseer of poor, 31 75
Henry Robinson, selectman and overseer of poor, 30 25
Fred O. Walker, treasurer, 25 00
Ira J. Parlin, supervisor of schools, 42 00
Wm. S. Walker, road commissioner, 60 00
Wm. Woodsum, collector of taxes, 109 90

Total, $349 10
ABATEMENTS.

We have granted the following orders of abatement:

Tax of Geo. W. Hammon, Pers. and poll of '87, $6 53
" " Alpheus Burgess, " " " " " " 5 80
" " Dodavah Hammon, " " " " " " 4 16
" " Fred E. Hodge, " " " " " " 2 50
" " O. F. Lovejoy, " " " " " " 3 50
" " John F. Nois, " " " " " " 2 75
" " Peleg F. Oldham, " " " " " " 75
" " Bion Trask, " " " " " " 2 50
" " Wm. Tobie, " " " " " " 3 08
" " Alpheus Burgess, " " " " " 1888, 2 07
" " Geo. W. Hammon, " " " " " " 5 98
" " Raymond Jackson, " " " " " " 2 50
" " Frank A. Myrick, " " " " " " 2 50
" " Simeon Morrill, " " " " " " 3 42
" " Wm. H. Phinney, " " " " " " 4 33
" " Wilson Stillman, deficient highway, " 5 41
" " Wm. Tobie, Pers. and poll of 1888, 3 23
" " Frank L. Wyman, " " " " " " 2 50
" " Returned highway on Daniel Hall farm '88, 2 19
" " Walter E. Irish, Pers. '88, 75
" " Eleazar C. Poland, deficient highway '88, 2 14
" " Peleg F. Oldham, Per. '88, 2 75
" " Geo. H. Davis, deficient highway '88, 2 00
" " Geo. Smith, Pres. '89, 9 30

Total abatements, $82 64
CURRENT EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR.

Total expenses of the poor for '89, $123 68
Cash on roads and bridges, 326 83
Incidental expenses, 111 93
Orders of abatement of taxes, 82 64
Town officers bills, 349 10
Interest on outstanding orders for one year at 4 per cent, 391 20
Interest on permanent school fund, 34 38

$1,419 76

Amt. voted by town to defray town charges, 2000 00
Amt. voted by town to be expended on roads and bridges, 300 00
Overlay authorized by law, 155 68
Deficient highway of '88, 171 52

2,627 20

Balance in favor of '89, $1,207 44

FINANCIAL STANDING OF THE TOWN.

Liabilities.

Outstanding Int. bearing orders, $9,780 13
Interest due thereon, 337 65
Non Int. bearing orders, 79 40
Due school districts, 155 50

$10,352 68
Amt. brought forward, $10,352 68

Bills due; orders not drawn:

Town officers' bills 1889. $349 10
For rent of meeting house for '88 & '89, 40 00
Estimated cost of printing this rep't, 8 00
Due town of Dixfield, 9 65

$406 75

$10,759 43

Resources.

Now in hands of the treasurer, $4,346 41
Total indebtedness above available means to pay, $6,413 02

In conclusion we will say that in making this report, we have endeavored to give you as clear an understanding of the town affairs as possible.

All of which we respectfully submit;

JAMES W. GOWELL, Selectmen of
HENRY R. ROBINSON, Peru.
ERRATA.

On cover, fourth line, read assessors; for assessors.
At page 3, second line, read 1,000 00; for 100,000
" " 6, fourteenth line, read Henry R.; for Henry.
" " 7, fourth line, read Dodavah S.; for Dodavah.
" " 7, last line but one, read Pers.; for Pres.
" " 13, first line, read Donation; for Deduction.
" " 16, tenth line, read patience; for patients.
Supervisor's Report.

To the citizens of Peru:—

As required by law I respectfully submit the follow­
ing report of the condition of our schools for the past
year. While thanking the teachers and scholars for
courtesies received, I wish to thank the several agents
for the evident interest they have taken in the schools
in the selection of teachers which has made, I sincerely
think, a successful school-year. A step in the right di­
rection has been made by retaining, in many cases,
good teachers for the year. Districts Nos., 1, 2, 3, 7
and 9 have made no change of teachers for the year,
and in No. 8. Miss Crockett has taught several terms
before, and I have no hesitation in saying that the
above schools show the wisdom of this course. This is
as it should be: no successful business man will turn
off a faithful clerk every six months for the sake of employ­
going a cheaper one, and the nearer the management of and
the instruction in our schools approaches business prin­
ciples, the more successful they will become. One
serious impediment to the real progress of our schools
is, that too much classifying is done at home. This has
a tendency to make at least twice the number of daily
recitations needed, and consequently but one half the
time to devote to each. Let us, as parents, leave this
matter to the supervisor and teachers; or at least visit
the schools and see our children in competition with
others before we say where the lessons shall be. This
must be the case to a great extent in the future, as under the new law, the text books can be had for the asking; this evil will grow unless stepped upon by the school management. An other error in our ungraded schools is the study of sciences and languages, when the time ought to be devoted to the study of the branches needed in our every-day life. This ought to be remedied by raising by the town about the same amount of money that it would cost one of us to send a scholar away to two terms of school, and establish a graded school at some convenient point in town, with the help of the state, which offers to one half educate our scholars if we will pay for the other half. The schools are well supplied with text books and maps. Although all of the text books can be changed the coming year, I should advocate but few changes. The arithmetics and grammars could be changed for the better. A little money granted the districts for the purchase of supplementary reading &c. would be a great advantage. Several of our school houses have needed attention badly, for several years for the reasonable comfort of our children in the winter terms.

FINANCIAL.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amt. raised by town,</td>
<td>$800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; received from state,</td>
<td>446.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Int. on permanent fund,</td>
<td>34.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,280.38</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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12 Per cent of this was distributed among the smaller districts. There was also raised by
Deduction in Dist. No. 7, $35 00
By taxation in Dist. No. 5, 55 00
Received from State, 90 00

Total, $180 00
Amt. brought from page 12, 1,280 38

Amount available for schools, being $1,460 38

Number of scholars in town, 248. Detailed report as follows:

District No. 1.—Summer and Winter terms taught by Miss V. Ludden of Dixfield. Miss Ludden is a teacher with an experience of 30 terms, and I will simply say that the two terms have been just what a supervisor or parents would wish to see. The tests given have been thorough, practical and, to a great extent, without text books. Order good, scholars quick, apt and interested.

District No. 2.—Both Summer and Winter terms taught by Mrs. M. V. Hall of this town. This was Mrs. Hall's 29th term. She is a teacher who takes much pains to keep up with the advanced methods of teaching, which she has used with good success in this school. Scholars orderly and attentive. A thorough test was given at my last visit in which the pupils acquitted themselves with credit to themselves and teacher.

District No. 3.—Summer, Fall and Winter terms taught by Miss F. L. Hall of West Peru. Miss Hall is well known as a teacher. She is a Normal School grad-
ivate, and has the faculty of securing the good will of her pupils, and has met, in these terms with her usual good success.

District No. 4.—Summer term taught by Miss Maydel Heminway, one of our most successful young teachers as regards instruction and discipline. I consider, in this term, the money well expended.

Winter term taught by Nathaniel B. Woodsum, of West Peru. I regard Mr. Woodsum as being well qualified to govern and instruct in any of the schools in town. He has worked hard for the advancement of this school and has succeeded well.

District No. 5.—Summer term taught by Miss Mary Elliot of Rumford. She had taught one school before with good success. At my first visit I was pleased with the school. Hearing some complaint in regard to order, I visited the school again and gave the teacher some advice, and heard much better reports afterwards; owing to a slight misunderstanding as to time of closing, I did not visit at close. I think the knowledge of human nature gained here will serve to make her a successful teacher.

Winter term taught by R. M. Woodsum of West Peru is still in session. I have visited it twice and can say I can see no points to criticise. Mr. Woodsum is thoroughly fitted for his position and is doing a good work as he has in the past.

District No. 6.—Summer term taught by Miss Lura M. Knight of Peru. This school was well conducted, dis-
cipline and instruction thorough. Teacher and scholars interested in the work, and the term all that could be required. Winter term taught by A. J. Churchill Jr. of this town. This was his first term and with experience, I see no reason why he should not be among the best. A little more confidence in the ability he has, will make him rank well with the older teachers.

**District No. 7.**—Fall and Winter terms taught by L. C. Putnam of Franklin. I have not space to give the detailed report I would wish of Mr. Putnam's methods of instruction, but will say they are plain, practical and common sense; reaching the desired object quickly and plainly. His system of teaching and discipline made these term's work all that could be wished.

**District No. 8.**—Summer term taught by Miss Eva L. Frank of Paris. Miss Frank made friends of the scholars in this district and although the order was hardly what I would wish to see, I think the school made very good progress. A very interesting feature of this school was the opening of the school with singing.

Winter term taught by Miss M. E. Crockett, of Hartford. Experience, aided by an evident interest in the work makes this teacher one who can keep up the interest of her pupils and her instruction is plain and orderly.

**District No. 9.**—Summer and fall terms taught by Miss Mabel Hall of Wilton. This is a small school and in the Summer term the scholars were small but this
teacher possesses in a marked degree the faculties necessary to interest and govern the smaller ones. In the Fall term several older ones were present at my first visit and the school appeared well but by reason of sickness only those of the summer term were present at my last visit. These made good improvement.

District No. 11.—Summer term taught by Miss Gertrude Hall of West Peru. This was Miss Hall's first school. For a young teacher she has started well. With patients she surmounted some obstacles which would have discouraged many older teachers. By my advice she allowed pupils to advance no faster than was thoroughly comprehensive.

Fall term taught by R. S. Tracy of Franklin. This term was successful and profitable as the teacher is at home in the school-room and worked for the interest of the school.

Spring term of Free High school in Dist. No. 7, under the instruction of L. C. Putnam; was judiciously managed and I think well repaid the expense.

Fall term of Free High school in Dist. No. 5, was well attended, and graded to the best advantage. Mr. J. A. Putnam is well fitted for this class of schools as he has had experience in other towns. While I know this is a general praising of our teachers for the past year, it is what I intended, as I believe in, "honor to whom honor is due," and will add, that if in the coming year the schools were to be under the same instruction as in the past year, I should feel that the school money was being well used.

IRA J. PARLIN, Supervisor.