

1891

# Annual Report of the Selectmen, Assesors and Overseers of the Poor, Supervisor of Schools, of the Town of Peru, for the Year Ending Feb 20, 1891

Peru (Me.)

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# ANNUAL REPORT

—OF THE—

## SELECTMEN

*Assessors and Overseers of the Poor,*

—AND—

## SUPERVISOR OF SCHOOLS

—OF THE—

### *TOWN OF PERU,*

*For the Year Ending Feb. 20,*

**1891.**

CANTON, MAINE:  
TELEPHONE STEAM BOOK & JOB PRINT.

1891.



18928

## Report of Selectmen.

### VALUATION.

Total valuation,	\$196,117 00
We have assessed a State tax of	558 42
A county tax of	271 48
Voted by the town to defray town charges	2,000 00
Voted by the town for support of roads	1,000 00
Voted by the town for support of schools	800 00
Voted by the town for school books	200 00
With an overlay of	191 09
Deficient highway of 1889	279 08
Total amount committed to Hiram E. Stillman, collector	\$5,300 07
Percentage of assessment, 23 mills on the dollar. polls at \$3 each.	170

### EXPENSE OF POOR.

We have leased the town farm and personal property thereon, to A. S. Knox for one year from Apr. 6, 1890, and he is to support Seth Jenne, and make such repairs as are specified in the lease and receive from the

town	40 00
We have paid Wm. S. Walker for wire for fence, grass seed and materials for repairs	12 18
Paid J. C. Wyman, for lumber for cart body	75
We have paid for supplies for town farm, due but not known at last report	
S. N. Knox, for use of bull in 1888	1 50
E. S. Wyman, for supplies furnished in '88	1 57

W. F. Putnam, for window	1 50
B. L. Rowe, for staple for yoke	75
W. S. Walker, for materials for repairs in 1889	2 11
	<hr/>
	7 43
Paid Rose Thomas for work at O. H. Eastman's	12 00
Paid Belinda Burgess for keeping John Austin	5 00
Paid town of Greenwood for medical attendance for Grace Polland	7 50
Paid for expense of Mary E. Manchon, or Mary E. Smith, and minor children in Livermore	119 41
Estimated expense of James B. Polland's family	150 00
G. G. Richardson claims for medical attendance for Mrs. Josiah Frost	15 00
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Total expense of poor for 1890	\$369 27

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TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

Howard Turner, treasurer of Peru for 1890.

DR.

Mar. 4, 1890, to Am't due on Wm. Woodsum's bills of 1889	3,430 20
Mar. 4, 1890, to tax deeds in hand	143 73
“ “ cash on hand	473 28
June 17, to cash from selectmen	100 00
July 1, to am't of Hiram E. Stillman's tax bills for 1890	4,470 17
July 10, to State school fund	422 25
Nov. 26, to cash received from sale of wild land	950 00
Feb. 13, to cash received from town of Dixfield for ferry boat	29 09
Feb. 13, to interest on tax deeds	1 28
“ to balance due from school district No, 5	10 83
	<hr/>
	\$10,030 83

( 5 )

CR.

Feb. 16 1890, by am't due on Wm. Woodsum's bills of 1889	494 81
By am't due on H. E. Stillman's bills of 1890	4,179 93
Orders and receipts turned to selectmen	4,898 51
Tax deeds in hand	171 58
Cash on hand	286 00
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	\$10,030 00

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We have expended on roads and bridges :

Unpaid bills of 1889	130 92
Expended in 1890 and up to this date	1,149 22
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Total amount expended on roads and bridges	\$1,280 14

ABATEMENTS.

We have granted orders of abatements for

Poll tax of Stephen W. Gammon for 1890	3 00
Part of tax on real estate of Nelson B. Lufkin for '90	2 30
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Total abatements	\$5 30

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

Paid for blank books	2 15
Paid for school books	251 65
Paid Wm Woodsum for searching records for title to town lands and drawing deed	3 00
Paid selectmen for postage and stationery	2 00
Paid selectmen for expenses out of town	6 37
Paid S. I. Crockett for helping find town line	38
Paid O. C. Hopkins for express and postage	1 00
Expended on the Wyman ferry	53 69
Due for rent of meeting house	15 00
Am't of deeds deducted from treasurer's assets	15 02
Estimated cost of printing this report	8 00
Paid A. B. Walker for services on the Board of Health	6 00
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	\$364 26

## TOWN OFFICERS' BILLS.

Oliver C. Hopkins, clerk	9 00
Dana W. Goding, selectman, assessor and overseer of poor	47 25
Henry R. Robinson, selectman, assessor and overseer of poor	27 00
James W. Gowell, selectman, assessor and overseer of poor	26 50
Howard Turner, treasurer	25 00
Ira J. Parlin, supervisor of schools	44 10
Mandeville Hall, constable	3 00
Hiram E. Stillman, collector	106 00
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	\$287 85

## CURRENT EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR.

Total expenses of the poor for 1890	369 27
Cash expended on roads and bridges	1,280 14
Incidental expenses	364 26
Orders of abatement of taxes	5 30
Town officers' bills	287 85
Interest accrued during the year	379 20
Interest on permanent school fund	34 38
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	\$2,720 40
Amount voted by town to defray town charges	3,200 00
Overlay authorized by law	191 09
Deficient highway of 1889	279 08
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	\$3,670 17
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Balance in favor of 1890	\$949 77

## FINANCIAL STANDING OF THE TOWN.

## LIABILITIES.

Outstanding orders bearing interest	7,833 15
Interest due to Feb. 20, 1891	295 75
Orders not on interest	696 74
Due the school districts	265 73

(7)

Bills due orders not drawn :

Town officers' bills for 1890	287 85
Wm. Woodsum's percentage for collecting in 1889	109 09
Estimated unpaid pauper bills	165 00
Due A. S. Knox	40 00
For rent of meeting house	55 00
Estimated cost of printing reports	8 00
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	\$664 94
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Total liabilities	\$9,756 31

RESOURCES.

In the hands of treasurer, Feb. 16	5,117 30
Received from Weld since Feb. 16,	30 00
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	\$5,147 30
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Total indebtedness above available means to pay \$4,609 01

All of which is respectfully submitted,

DANA W. GODING,	}	Selectmen of Peru.
HENRY R. ROBINSON,		
JAMES W. GOWELL,		

## Supervisor's Report.

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*To the Citizens of Peru:*—A report of this branch of the town's business is necessary for three reasons, viz: first, to conform to law; second, to inform you of the condition of our schools; third, to assist agents in the selection of teachers for the future. This is one of the hardest of the many perplexing duties of the year, especially if one cares to please the two elements with which he has to deal, viz: the public singly, and the public collectively, owing to the brief space in which to explain the many items requiring explanation.

The duties of the past year have been more numerous and arduous than usual, owing to the change in the text book law, and the Free High Schools. I have made no changes in the books used in town, with the exception of arithmetics and physiologies, the latter of which but few are used. By adopting for another series of years, the books already used (and which in my judgment are good enough), I have secured much lower prices, a list of which together with a complete list of books adopted, terms and the firms dealt with, I have caused to be recorded in the town clerk's office. Although to secure these prices, I have been obliged to exceed the appropriation, I have books to the amount of forty dollars, without charge to the town in shape of desk copies, etc., and while the schools are fairly well supplied, I have in addition to those mentioned above, enough on hand to make in all about one hundred dollars worth, to deliver to my successor, but who will need them very soon, as many pupils are using their own books and will take an upward step the coming terms.

I should speak more of the town system for the protection and repair of our school property, if I did not think that State legislation would soon determine just what steps should be taken. Many of our school houses are growing from bad to worse, without attention and are not reasonable for children to pass the winter days in, and certainly do not exert a cheerful influence in summer. The house in Dist. No. 2, needs repairs badly and the town should take some action in Dist. No. 11, if the inhabitants do not. Many pupils have been deprived of the benefit of the Free High School fund, by reason of the necessity of having the school in the fall, in these districts.



## FINANCIAL.

Amount raised by town,	\$675 00
Amount received from State,	422 25
Interest on permanent fund,	34 38
Total,	\$1131 63

Ten per cent of this was distributed among the smaller districts, making assignment as follows:

District No. 1,	\$134 78	District No. 6,	104 00
“ “ 2,	97 00	“ “ 7,	83 00
“ “ 3,	148 78	“ “ 8,	111 00
“ “ 4,	152 28	“ “ 9,	65 50
“ “ 5,	138 29	“ “ 11,	97 00

\$125 was also raised by vote of town for support of Free High Schools. No report has been received from the State at this writing owing to deficiency in appropriation for Free High School purposes.

DISTRICT NO. 1.—This school, as in the past has held first rank, as a whole, in every respect that goes to make a good school. The interest shown when I have visited this school, and the class of teachers the agents have employed for the past two years, have been a credit to all concerned. Summer term taught by Mrs. M. V. Hall. Average No. of scholars, 20. Wages of teacher, \$5 per week. Winter term by R. M. Woodsum. Average number, 20. Wages, \$25 per month.

DISTRICT NO. 2.—This school is very small but the scholars are interested and the older ones especially are doing all any one could ask in the way of advancement. The summer term was taught by Winnie A. Gould of Dixfield. Miss Gould is a young teacher and for her experience did well. Average number of scholars, 5. Wages of teacher, \$3.25.

The fall term was taught by Miss Josie True of Turner. This was Miss True's first term, and through being detained from home, I was unable to visit the school at the close, but from my idea of her qualification from my examination, her excellent appearance at my first visit, and the general satisfaction expressed, I do not hesitate to recommend her to any agent in town. Average No. 7. Wages \$3.50

DISTRICT NO. 3.—This school contains much natural ability, but labors under the disadvantage of all small village schools, of the interest being divided between the instructions of the street and store, and that of the hired teacher, in many instances to the decided injury to latter. The summer and winter terms, as well as the Free High School, were taught by Miss V. Ludden of Dixfield. Miss Ludden is too well known as a teacher to need any report of ability, and she aroused the interest characteristic of her schools, in the summer term, and the pupils made excellent advancement. This continued until the middle of the

winter term or later, when a judicious use of the rod would have been an improvement in a few cases. The school generally has improved much in appearance and scholarship. Many of the pupils of other districts who attended in the fall continued through the winter, making a large school and hard work for the teacher. Average attendance in summer, 19. Wages of teacher, \$4.00 per week. Average No. in winter, 28. Wages, \$5.50.

DISTRICT No. 4.—This school, though not as advanced as some in town, has several excellent scholars, and requires a good teacher. The school made very good advancement in the summer term, under the instruction of Miss Bertha Wyman of Rumford, whose methods of instruction are plain and practical. Average No. 13. Wages of teacher, \$3.00.

Winter term by A. J. Churchill, Jr. While I would discourage the idea of a young teacher taking the school in his own district, Mr. Churchill has worked hard in this school and has met with good success. The school is in session at time of writing this report, but with every appearance of being all that would be required.

DISTRICT No. 5.—Miss Hattie L. Bean of Jay, taught the summer term, and the school made good progress. The scholars were small in this term, but Miss Bean seemed to have the qualifications of a good teacher. Average No. 12. Wages of teacher, \$3.00.

Winter term taught by Joseph A. Putnam. This school is still in session, but is progressing well, interest and order very good. Registered No. 25. Mr. Putnam is one of our older teachers and bids fair to make this term a success.

DISTRICT No. 6.—This school is very small and with one or two exceptions the scholars are hard to interest in their studies. If the school was larger it would be easier for scholars and teacher. The summer term was taught by Miss Bertha Hopkins, who did well for her first school. Discipline very good. Average No. 7. Wages of teacher, \$2.50.

Fall term taught by Mary E. Wyman of Rumford. I did not visit the school at the close, but at my visit in the eighth week, the school was appearing well, though the pupils were not as interested as in larger schools. Average No. 9. Wages of teacher, \$3.25.

DISTRICT No. 7.—Summer term, under instruction of Ada E. Gerrish, who kept the scholars as interested as could be expected, for the number. Good advancement was made, and order all that was necessary. Average No. 8. Wages, \$3.00.

Fall term taught by Miss Celinda L. Bean of Jay. But five pupils attended on average, and the teacher did all in her power to interest them, and they made good progress. Wages, \$2.80.

DISTRICT NO. 8.—Miss Maydel Heminway of Rumford, taught both terms and I think worked hard for the advancement of this school, and with good success. The scholars are interested and are making good progress. Miss H. is a live teacher, and the school needs good teachers in the future. Average No. in summer, 10. Wages, of teacher, \$3.00. Average No. in winter, 13. Wages of teacher, \$4.00.

DISTRICT NO. 9.—This is one of the smallest schools in town, but interest was very good in the summer term, and the pupils made good advancement for the grade, taught by Alice J. Irish, who made a first rate start for a young teacher. Average No. 6. Wages, \$2.50.

Fall term taught by Minnie L. Gauthier of Hartford. Was unable to visit the school but once, about the middle of the term. I found most of the pupils interested and the teacher working for that end and a fair improvement, up to that time. Average No. 9. Wages, \$2.75.

DISTRICT NO. 11.—This school is increasing in number and interest and needs more favorable circumstances under which to labor, in shape of a decent roof to cover it. Two successful terms have been taught by Miss F. L. Hall. The majority of the pupils made extra improvement, especially in reading and arithmetic. Average No. in the summer, 15. Wages, \$4.25 including board. Average No. in fall, 15. Wages, \$4.25.

The terms of Free High School were of great advantage to those pupils who were able to attend. In district No. 1, J. A. Putnam taught an average of 31 pupils and a great benefit was noticeable at the beginning of the winter term. Cost of school, \$90.00.

In district No. 3, Miss Ludden taught 35 pupils with an assistant for a few of the smaller classes. A good interest was manifested and good advancement made. Several came from each surrounding district, and the situation is so favorable for convening scholars of other districts, that I wish that the school might be maintained each year. Cost of school, \$85.00

By corresponding with Superintendent Luce, I found that the remainder of the money could not be used for another school the past year.

I have tried in the past two years in which, through your courtesy, I have had charge of the schools, to do what my ability would allow, to advance the interest of parents and pupils, and realizing the need of supervision agreeable to the progressive system of teaching we have, or ought to have. I ask you to elect some one in my place who is better qualified in these matters and who will raise the standard of our schools still higher, and any information that my observation or experience can give, shall be gladly given.

Respectfully submitted,

IRA J. PARLIN, Supervisor.