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.
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. 170 polls at $3 each.

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

Paid Rose Thomas for work at O. H. Earlman'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. Richandson claims for medical attendance for Mrs. Josiah Frost 15 00

Total expense of poor for 1890 $369 27

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

$10,030 83
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

We have expended on roads and bridges:
Unpaid bills of 1889 130.92
Expended in 1890 and up to this date 1,149.22

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

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

$364.26
(6)

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

$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

$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

$3,670 17

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
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 to A. S. Knox: $40.00
- For rent of meeting house: $55.00
- Estimated cost of printing reports: $8.00

Total liabilities: $664.94

Total liabilities: $9,756.31

RESOURCES.

- In the hands of treasurer, Feb. 16: $5,117.30
- Received from Weld since Feb. 16: $30.00

Total indebtedness available means to pay: $4,609.01

All of which is respectfully submitted,

DANA W. GODING,  Selectmen
HENRY R. ROBINSON, of
JAMES W. GOWELL, Peru.
Supervisor’s Report.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District No.</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>District No.</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$134.78</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>104.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>97.00</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>152.28</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>65.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>138.29</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>97.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$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 devided 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, 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.