

1893

# Annual Report of the Municipal Officers of the Town of Peru, for the Year Ending Feb 17, 1893

Peru (Me.)

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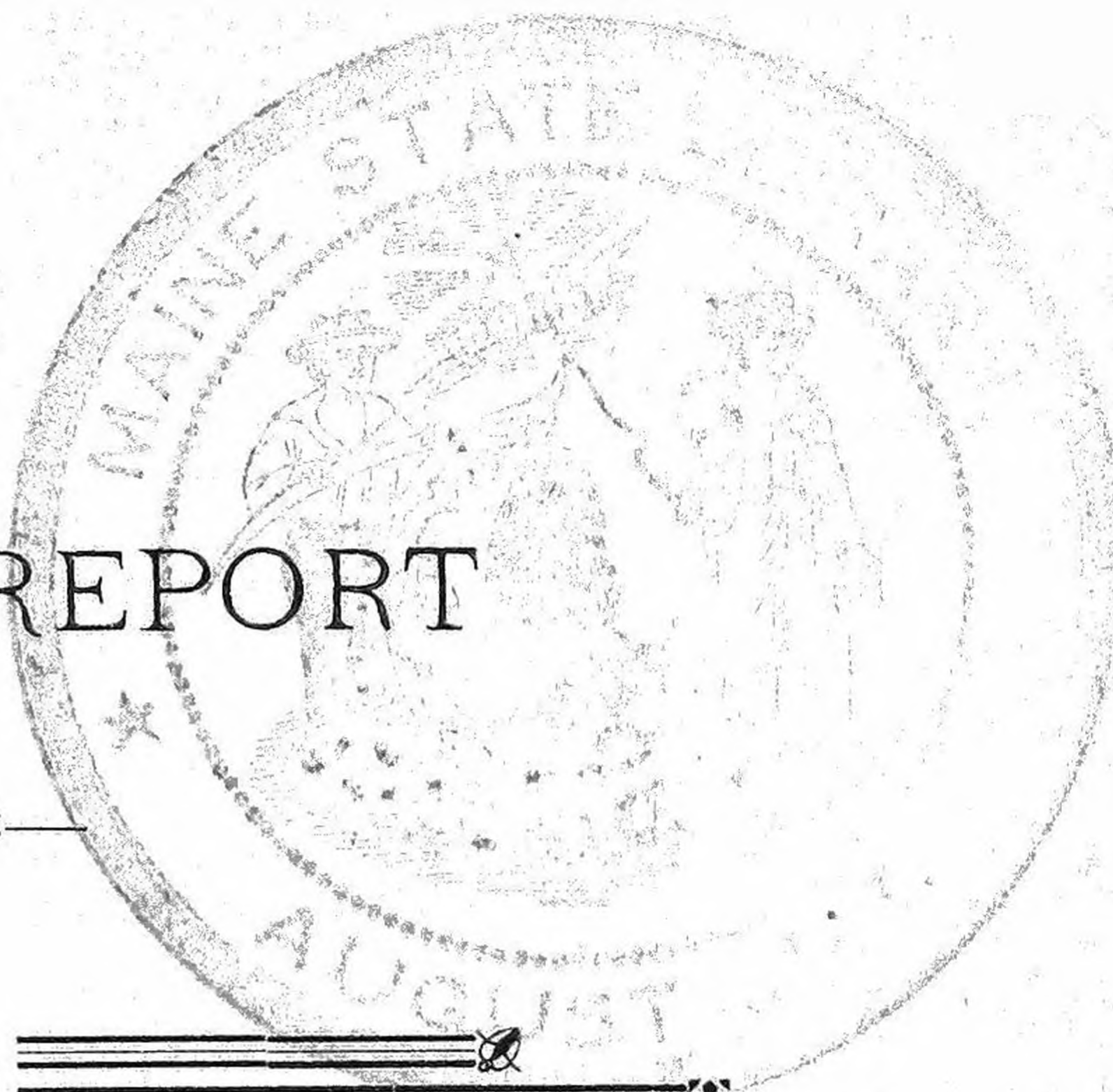
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ANNUAL REPORT

—OF THE—

MUNICIPAL

OFFICERS

—OF THE—

Town of Peru,

*For the Year ending Feb. 17,*

**1893.**

RUMFORD FALLS PUBLISHING CO., PRINTERS.

1893.

## Report of Selectmen.

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To the inhabitants of the town of Peru :

Agreeably to law and the usual customs, we submit our annual report of the financial condition of the town, for the year ending Feb. 17, 1893.

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### VALUATION.

Total valuation,		\$198 599
We have assessed a State tax of	\$572 03	
A county tax of	206 60	
Voted by town to defray town charges,	3,000 00	
Deficient highway 1891,	121 56	
Voted by town for support of schools,	800 00	
With an overlay of	184 54	
Total amount committed to Daniel Fletcher, er, collector,		\$5,080 73
Percentage of assessment, 2 cent and 3 mills on the dollar. 196 polls at \$1 each.		

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### EXPENSE OF POOR.

We have leased the town farm and personal property thereon, to A. K. P. Trask for one year from April 6, 1892, and he is to support Seth Jenne, and make such repairs as are necessary and receive from the town		\$34 12
We have paid W. S. Walker for barbed wire, nails, meal, etc. furnished the town farm,	91 68	
Paid for repairs on town farm buildings,	8 50	
Total expense of town farm for 1892,		\$134 30

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EXPENSE OF POOR NOT ON FARM.

Due Gardiner Lovejoy for keeping Samuel Lovejoy,	30 00
Paid for pair rubbers for Samuel Lovejoy,	80
Paid town of Leeds expense of S. P. Wing,	149 29
Paid expense of Otis Haskell,	5 00
Paid town of Leeds expense of F. J. Wing,	27 00
Paid town of Poland expense of James B. Poland,	1 34
Estimated expense S. P. Wing and family,	20 00
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	\$233 43
To which add expense of town farm,	134 30
	<hr/>
Total expense of the poor,	\$367 73
Deducted the amount received from town of Poland,	4 07
	<hr/>
Total expense of poor for 1892,	\$363 66

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

Howard Turner, Treasurer of Peru for 1892.

DR.

Feb. 16, 1892, to Am't due on Hiram Stillman's bills of 1890,	\$1,577 76
Feb. 16, 1892, to Am't due on Daniel Fletcher's bills of 1891,	2,846 01
Feb. 16, 1892, to amount due on tax deeds,	181 93
Feb. 16, " cash on hand,	205 46
Feb. 15, " cash from town of Poland,	4 07
Feb. 15, " Am't of Daniel Fletcher's tax bills 1892,	5,080 73
Oct. 18, 1892, received of selectmen on account of John Smith,	12 42
Dec. 3, 1892, received for Atlas Powder sold,	2 50
Dec. 3, " balance on oxen,	10 00
Jan. 2, 1893, school fund and mill tax,	579 20
Feb. 11, 1893, interest on tax deeds,	10 01
	<hr/>
Total,	\$10,510 09

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Aug. 27, 1892, adv. town order,	75
Aug. 27, 1892, paid county tax,	206 60
Jan. 2, 1893, paid State tax,	572 03
Feb. 15, 1893, am't due on Daniel Fletcher's tax bills, 1891,	89 47
Feb. 15, 1893, am't due on Daniel Fletcher's tax bills 1892,	3,787 11
Feb. 15, 1893, am't orders and receipts turned in,	4,522 91
Feb. 15, " amount of tax deeds on hand,	155 19
Feb. 15, " amount cash on hand,	1,176 03
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Total.	\$10,510 09

We have expended on roads and bridges:

Unpaid bills of 1891,	66 32
Expended in 1892 up to this date,	1,485 47
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Total am't expended on roads and bridges,	\$1,551 79

#### ABATEMENTS.

We have granted the following orders of abatements:

Unpaid highway tax of Chester Knox,	1 18
Unpaid highway tax of H. B. Smith,	4 30
Unpaid highway tax of E. Child,	1 20
Unpaid highway tax of Sam. Dailey,	1 00
Unpaid highway tax of R. H. Burgess,	1 71
Unpaid highway tax of Frank Stanley,	1 09
Poll tax of James L. Demeritt,	3 00
	<hr/>
Total abatements,	\$13 48

#### INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

S. F. Robinson, blank book and postage,	90
Paid W. S. Walker for blank books for town clerk,	11 50
Paid O. C. Hopkins for blank books for town,	2 05
Paid E. P. Gibbs for G. A. R. Post,	8 00
Paid W. S. Walker for lumber for booths,	1 49
Paid Joseph A Putnam for school books,	14 97

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Paid J.S. Sturtevant for return of births and deaths,	2 50
Paid Howard Turner for postage,	2 00
Paid A. K. P. Trask for keeping tramps,	7 20
	<hr/>
Total,	\$50 61

TOWN OFFICER'S BILLS.

S. F. Robinson, town clerk,	9 50
Howard Turner, treasurer,	25 00
James W. Gowell, selectman, assessor and overseer of the poor,	38 25
O. C. Hopkins, selectman, assessor and overseer of the poor,	33 35
O. L. Knight, selectman, assessor and overseer of the poor,	37 00
Joseph A. Putnam, supervisor of schools,	38 11
Daniel Fletcher, collector,	97 98
A. B. Walker, board of health, unknown,	
S. F. Robinson, board of health,	2 25
A. A. Eastman, board of health, 1889, '90. '91. '92,	25 50
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Total,	\$306 94

CURRENT EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR.

Expenses of the poor for 1892,	363 66
Paid on roads and bridges,	1,551 79
Incidental expenses,	50 61
Orders of abatements of taxes,	13 48
Town officers' bills,	306 94
Interest accrued during the year,	230 02
Interest on permanent school fund,	34 38
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Total,	\$2,550 88

Amount voted by town to pay town charges,	\$3,000.00
Overlay authorized by law,	184 54
Deficient highway, 1891,	121 56
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	\$3,306 10
Balance in favor of 1892,	\$755 22

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FINANCIAL STANDING OF THE TOWN.

LIABILITIES.

Outstanding orders bearing interest,	6,288 00
Interest due to Feb. 15, 1893,	230 02
Orders not on interest,	391 63
Due the school districts,	477 03
Bills due orders not drawn :	
Town officers' bills for 1892,	306 94
Daniel Fletcher's percentage for collecting, 1891.	57 97
Due A. K. P. Trask,	34 12
Estimated unpaid pauper bills,	20 00
Estimated cost for printing this report,	8 50
Due for rent of hall,	10 00
	<hr/>
Total liabilities,	\$7,824 21

RESOURCES.

In the hands of the treasurer, Feb. 17,	\$5,118 33
	<hr/>
Total indebtedness above available means to pay,	\$2,705 88

We have visited the town farm and find every thing in good condition. Mr Trask has built 150 rods of wire fence and made other improvements.

Wm. M. Knight, an inmate of the Insane Hospital, has become a town charge. his money being all expended.

Our town debt is all in town excepting a \$700 order that we expect to cash in a few days.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

JAMES W. GOWELL,	} Selectmen of Peru.
O. C. HOPKINS,	
O. L. KNIGHT,	

## Report of Supervisor.

I hereby submit the following report for the year ending February 17, 1893.

### STATISTICS.

No. of Dist.	Agents.	Amount Appropriated.	No. of Scholars	Term.	Wages of Teacher.	Price of Board.	No. Attending.	Average No.	No. of Weeks.
1	Samuel Irish,	179	1434	S	4 00	1 75	30	24	9
				W	*26 00	2 00	25	21	12
2	Dexter Delano,	135	6522	S	4 75	1 50	13	10	10
				F	4 00	1 00	9	8	8
3	Wallace E. Hammond,	183	8936	W	5 25	1 50	15	13	6
				S	5 00		26	22	8
				F	*20 00	1 50	27	22	10
				†W	*20 00		29		8
4	Lewis Dunn,	249	4847	S	3 50	1 90	25	23	8
				F	4 50	1 90	26	23	8
				†W	*40 00	2 00	34		13
5	D. L. Chenery,	192	5528	S	3 50	1 90	20	18	10
				W	*26 00	2 00	24		10
6	John Burgess,	118	9717	S	3 00	1 40	12	11	8
				F	3 00	1 42	12	10	8
				W	3 00	1 40	11	8	8
7	L. D. Delano,	125	2616	S	2 75	1 50	8	6	7
				F	3 25	1 75	4	3	8
				W	3 25	1 75	12	8	10
8	Homer Child,	117	3023	F	4 00	1 50	23	19	8
				W	5 00	1 50	18	17	8
9	William Trask,	97	619	S	2 50	1 25	10	7	8
				F	2 50	1 25			
11	Daniel Piper,	160	5317	F	*25 00		16	15	10
				W	*25 00		17		12

Total amt. appropriated, \$1,560.38. Total No. in town, 249.

\* Per month; others per week. † Still in session.



# Something of Interest to You.

## An Intelligent Statement of the Case.

It is claimed by the opponents of removal that if the county votes "No" it means the expenditure of only \$2000 or \$3000 at most. Where is the authority for any such statement? Undoubtedly some repairs can be made for \$2000 or even less, but what is the probable course of the County Commissioners?

They are bound to accept a no vote of the people of this county as expressing their preference for Paris Hill as the proper place for the county seat, and it then becomes their duty by statute to make the buildings safe and convenient where the people have decided to have them stay and in doing this they are not to look simply to the saving of a few dollars for the present, but are to decide what is true economy for the county for future years.

Will they think it their duty to put a few more pimples and patches on the old buildings to last a few years and then be done over or will they make their work thorough so that this agitation will be ended and the county have what the statute makes it the imperative duty of the Commissioners to provide.

Mr. John Barker of Bethel, who has lately vacated the chairmanship of the Board of County Commissioners, says: "I believe the only way to do is to build a new building for the county officers."

It appears from the interview with Mr. Barker that this very thing was discussed by the old Board composed of himself, Mr. Woodsum and Mr. Whitmarsh, and that their opinion was that they ought to make permanent improvements if they did anything. Mr. Woodsum and Mr. Whitmarsh are still on the Board.

Is there any indication that they have changed their mind?

The Board as at present composed has not decided definitely how much to expend and of course will not until the question comes before them should the county vote "no" but individual members have expressed their judgment as individuals that necessary changes will cost from \$8,000 to \$12,000.

Mr. Waldo Pettengill, a former member of the Board of County Commissioners, expresses himself as in favor of new buildings at Paris Hill if they cannot be had at South Paris.

Mr. Bisbee and Mr. Bridgham of Buckfield, Mr. Herrick, Judge Frye and Judge Woodbury of Bethel, Mr. Hastings and Mr. Eastman of Fryeburg, Mr. Pendexter, a former County Commissioner of Denmark, Mr. Almon Young of Hiram, and a host of other prominent men all over the county say new buildings.

Every man who has served on the Board of Commissioners for ten years, except Mr. Geo. F. Hammond of Paris Hill, is on record in favor of new build-

ings on Paris Hill if they cannot be had at South Paris.

In view of these facts and of the fact that Paris Hill people would not oppose a new building on *Paris Hill* can we doubt that a "no" vote means at least a new building for the offices and vaults especially as all the architects who have examined it say it would be better to tear it down and build over rather than to attempt to repair.

If this is true the county will pay a large sum of money which will be entirely lost if the county seat should ever be moved in the future, as the county does not own the land on Paris Hill but only the right to use it, or if the county seat be not changed a large sum must follow in the near future as a new court house would follow a new office building, as surely as night follows day.

## You are to Choose the Location.

Don't be misled. That is just it. You cannot be misled or deceived if you will investigate for yourself.

Our County Buildings are not what we need or should have and they must be more or less repaired, remodeled or re-built.

The jail has been condemned.

The supposed fire-proof vaults have been condemned.

The office building is unsuited for the purposes for which it was designed and must be enlarged.

The Court Room has been pronounced absolutely dangerous in event of fire on the first floor as all egress would be cut off except by jumping from the windows.

The Law Library of the county is in the second story of an annex to Court Buildings and it would be impossible to save any of the valuable volumes should the Court House get on fire.

There are seven stoves and some fireplaces in the Court Buildings and consequently great danger of fire.

To be sure this building has withstood the wear of seventy-five years and has thus far escaped destruction from fire. It may always be so fortunate, but that is no excuse for neglect.

Go visit those buildings and look them over, remember that almost \$1300 has been expended on them in the last eight years and that now the lowest estimate of least possible repairs is between \$2000 and \$3000.

Your Commissioners question the advisability or economy of making these hand-to-mouth repairs, as it were, on building that are 75 years old and worn out. They think it is better to build new at least one building, i. e. the Office Building with vaults and possibly the jail. This would require a large expenditure of money, so much that your Commissioners do not feel warranted in expending it without asking the advice

or consent of the tax payers. Though the law would allow them to expend \$25,000 on the buildings and say nothing to the tax payers yet to build one new building on Paris Hill means to accept that location for the county seat for the next 75 years and shortly all the buildings will be re-built, as they certainly should be, and undoubtedly will be, if the new location is not accepted at the polls, and thus your rejection or acceptance of the new location is important.

Your Commissioners, whom you have chosen to have charge and oversight of your property and whom the law has clothed with sufficient power to expend \$25,000 of your money have decided to build new County Buildings at South Paris. It is your duty to become informed and vote intelligently in the matter.

You must either sustain your commissioners by voting "yes" or censure them by your "no" votes. You are to decide on the location but the Commissioners are to expend your money either at Paris Hill, three miles inland, or at South Paris on the line of the railroad.

If the Commissioners had not thought it better, wiser and more economical to abandon the old buildings rather than repair or re-build them they would have never selected the new location. The judgment of your Commissioners is new building not to exceed a cost of \$30,000 on a new location.

Will it not be safer and wiser to accept the judgment of your Commissioners in preference to the wish of those who are personally interested in keeping and re-building them on Paris Hill almost regardless of cost, convenience or consequences. To re-build on land that is not owned and cannot be owned by the county?

This is the issue and on it you are to decide. As we have said, it is important that you investigate and look into the matter and vote intelligently. Don't be misled by personally interested parties. Remember, it is your ballots that is to decide the location and the Commissioners will expend your money according to your decision either on Paris Hill or at South Paris.

A "no" ballot means that an indefinite quantity of your money is to be expended in re-building, repairing or rejuvenating time honored and worn out buildings, which have withstood the storms of seventy-five years on land that is owned by "the heirs" and not the county." A "yes" ballot means that your money is to be expended on new and convenient buildings at South Paris on land owned by the county. Buildings which are not to cost over \$30,000, and you also have a \$50,000 bond guaranteeing to you the limit of expense.

Choose ye which it shall be and choose wisely by voting understandingly.

DISTRICT No. 1.—Samuel F. Irish, agent. The summer term was taught by Mary E. Crockett of East Sumner, a well-known and experienced teacher. Miss Crockett's methods are marked with system, accuracy and thoroughness, three qualities of a model teacher. The pupils co-operated in the work, a profitable term being the result.

The winter term was taught by Mr. R. S. Tracy of Franklin Plt. This was Mr. Tracy's 15th term. A fair amount of advancement was made.

DISTRICT No. 2.—Dexter Delano, agent. The summer term was under the instruction of Nellie M. Castle. Notwithstanding this was Miss Castle's first term, it was one of the most successful in town.

Fall term was taught by Miss Josie True of Turner. Miss True is a fine scholar and an earnest teacher. Success attended her efforts in this school.

Winter term was taught by summer teacher, Miss Castle. This term was equally successful with summer term.

DISTRICT No. 3.—Wallace E. Hammond, agent. Summer term taught by Miss Minnie E. Holland of Dixfield. This was Miss Holland's second term. If the scholars had tried as hard as Miss Holland this term would have been a perfect success.

Fall term taught by Edwin E. Hussey of this town. Mr. Hussey is a fine scholar, soon to be a graduate of F. S. N. S. He labored hard in this school. A fair amount of advancement was made and I conclude that Mr. Hussey has the sterling qualities of a good teacher.

Winter term is being taught by Rev. W. W. Carver. This is Mr. Carver's fifteenth term. He is a man of ability and very fond of teaching. Such naturally leads to success. There are some fine scholars in this district.

DISTRICT No. 4.—Lewis Dunn, agent. Summer term was taught by Miss Maydel Heminway. Miss Heminway is a well-known and enthusiastic teacher. Ambition marks her success.

Fall term was also taught by Maydel Heminway with good success.

Winter term is being kept by Andrew J. Churchill of this town. Mr. Churchill being a Normal graduate is thoroughly equipped for the business. He possesses that natural tact which makes a valuable teacher. His ambition is to lead others aright, and while

he insists upon lessons being thoroughly learned, he is not unreasonable in assigning them, I shall therefore give Mr. Churchill a part of the palm, and pronounce his school among the first in town, thoroughness being a particular quality.

DISTRICT No. 5.—D. L. Chenery, agent. Summer term was taught by Gertrude L. Holman of Dixfield. Miss Holman tried hard to do herself credit in this school, but not having confidence in her ability to govern, failed somewhat in discipline.

Winter term is about to finish under the instruction of L. C. Putnam, teacher. Mr. Putnam possesses that firmness, in the right, which renders him a valuable teacher. With him it is not how much but how well. His school has made extra advancement this term, and have a clear conception of the practical principles involved in lessons of each day. I would refer you to former reports without detailing further.

DISTRICT No. 6.—John Burgess, agent. Summer, fall and winter terms were taught by Miss Bertha E. Hopkins of this town. Miss Hopkins' school at my last visit appeared well, so I conclude these schools were profitable to this district.

DISTRICT No. 7.—L. D. Delano, agent. Summer, fall and winter terms were taught by Julia J. Howard of this town. Miss Howard is a fine scholar for her age, and possesses a natural ability to teach. Although these schools were small a good interest was held to the close of the last term.

DISTRICT No. 8.—Homer Child, agent. Fall and winter terms of school were taught by Miss Mary E. Crockett, an experienced teacher. This school is one of the smartest in town. Tests which were passed during my interview with them were satisfactory and showed great painstaking on the part of both teacher and pupil. It would be well to add that her services should be secured at an early date.

DISTRICT No. 9.—Wm. Trask, agent. Summer term was taught by Miss Alice J. Irish of this town. Miss Irish has a good way of doing work in the school-room. Her scholars, though small, showed good instruction and discipline.

Fall term taught by Leanna M. Morrison of East Sumner. Miss Morrison has great natural ability to teach, and while her school was small, there being only nine in the district, good advancement was made. I recommend her to agents of this town in the future.

DISTRICT No. II.—Daniel W. Piper, agent. Fall and winter terms taught by Joseph A. Putnam of this town. Scholars in this school realize to the full extent the object of schools. They are among the most thorough in town. And though I have taught twenty-four terms, I think I have never taught more thorough or better disposed scholars.

There are some things which I consider are pressing in the demand of schools. We need more grade in respect to organization. By this I mean that scholars should be required to go through less books and get more practical knowledge. To bring this about scholars ought to be required to pass certain tests before being promoted to a higher study. And when promoted much care should be used in the adoption of another work. We need some amendment on the present protection of school books. School-houses should be put in condition to hold books furnished by the town without carrying them from the school-room. So it would require less expense to town to get schools ready to work. I hope during the next year some action may be taken toward labeling and numbering books, to secure a systematic preservation.

#### FREE HIGH SCHOOL.

There has been one term of Free High School in town during the past year. This was a fall term under the auspices of district No. 5, supported by individual subscriptions to the amount of \$50 and a like amount from the State. Mr. Andrew J. Churchill had charge of this school, making it a perfect success, and giving satisfaction to the entire district.

The general success of the schools throughout the town during the past year can be traced to three sources: To the first of these, efficient teachers, allusion has already been made. No less important is the second source of success, the industry and effort of each pupil. The idea that teachers can "learn" scholars their lesson is as untrue in fact as it is ungrammatical in expression. While it is for the instructor to teach the youth under his care, the *learning* of the tasks assigned rests wholly with the latter. The teacher is indispensable to assist and guide the pupil in his study, yet it still remains true that more depends on the efforts of the pupil than on the labors of his teacher. The third and crowning source of success is the home influence of parents which, in the main, has been in hearty support of the teachers. This is as it should be, for there is scarcely any course that parents can take with their children

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short of absolute cruelty more injurious to their welfare than taking sides with them against their teachers. Give the teachers your support, even if some of their methods differ from your own, and teach your children to look upon their instructors only with respect.

I congratulate District No. 5, Dickvale, for having taken advantage of free high school provision. Thus getting one dollar for fifty cents expenditure. I earnestly desire that these schools be continued. I hope in the near future there may be a permanent free high school established in town, as provided in §§ 28:35 of School Law, so pupils of this town can obtain an excellent education without going away and leaving sums of money which would be a help to us if expended in town.

Respectfully Submitted,

JOSEPH A. PUTNAM, Supervisor.