

1895

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, 1895

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,

1895.

O. M. Richardson's Steam Print, Canton, Maine.

1895.

TOWN OFFICERS.

Dana W. Goding, Albert S. Holman,
Geo. L. Rowe,

Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor.

Treasurer..... W. S. Walker.

Town Clerk..... S. F. Robinson.

Supervisor of Schools..... Joseph A. Putnam.

Collector of Taxes..... A. S. Hazelton.

A. A. Eastman, M. Hall, O. O. Tracy, Board of Health.

REPORT OF SELECTMEN.



The selectmen of the town of Peru submit the following report for the year ending Feb. 20th, 1895:

Total valuation.....	\$216,524 00
Value of town farm property.....	935 00
Valuation on which money tax was assessed.....	\$215,589 00
We have assessed a highway tax of.....\$2,000 00	
at a percentage of .0084 on the dollar, and 243 polls at \$1.00 each.	
We have assessed a State tax of.....	\$602 64
A county tax of.....	223 07
Voted by town to defray town charges.....	2,000 00
Voted by town for roads and bridges.....	400 00
Voted by town to be laid out on road near Rum-	
ford Falls.....	400 00
Voted by town for support of schools.....	800 00
To pay for school property.....	2,550 00
With an overlay of.....	262 01
Deficient highway of 1893.....	213 20
	\$7,450 92
We have rebated to the school districts.....	2,513 34
Total amount committed for collection.....	\$4,937 58
We have remitted to district No. 11 by town orders	\$45 20

EXPENSE OF POOR.

We have leased the town farm and personal property there-
on to A. K. P. Trask for one year, from April 6, 1894, and he is
to support Seth Jenne and receive from the town...\$42 10

We have paid S. N. Knox for use of bull in 1893.....3 00

Paid John A. Putnam for shoeing oxen.....1 25

Paid A. K. P. Trask for keeping tramps.....7 05

Paid for three-year-old steers.....78 00

Paid W. S. Walker for grass seed, fence wire and
other materials.....30 08

\$161 48

Cr. by oxen sold.....80 00

Balance against town farm for the year.....\$81 48

Paid for support of Wm. M. Knight.....143 60

for support of F. J. Wing in 1893.....5 85

expense of sickness and burial of Mrs. S. P.
Wing.....197 00

expense of J. E. C. Poland.....66 58

for support of Leonora P. Knight.....152 45

town of Hebron for support of wife and child-
ren of Francis A. Oldham.....110 00

expense of Charles E. Morse.....26 92

expense of Geo. B. Manson's family.....134 75

Claimed by town of Leeds for doctor's bills for F.
J. Wing.....24 00

Paid expenses of Jess Reed.....20 00

Total expense of poor for the year.....\$962 63

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

We have expended on roads and bridges :

Unpaid bills of winter of 1893 and '94.....192 53

Expended on road near Rumford Falls.....426 81

Expended on bridge near James W. Gowell's.....283 26

On roads and bridges in all other places.....226 82

Total.....\$1129 42

SCHOOLS.

Amount raised by town for support of schools...\$800 00

Amount apportioned from State funds.....723 48

Interest on permanent school fund.....	34	38	
Unexpended balance from 1893.....	31	00	
			\$1,588 86

We have expended for support of schools, includ-			
ing repairs and furnishings.....	\$1,304	54	
Balance unexpended Feb. 20.....	284	32	
			\$1,588 86

ABATEMENTS.

We have granted the following orders of abatements of taxes:

Bowen, Nicholas poll of 1892, unable to collect....	\$1	00
Coolidge, Alonzo Q. part of personal of 1892.....	37	
Fonces, George poll of '92, unable to collect.....	1	00
Gammon, Daniel part of real and personal of '92, unable to pay.....	5	56
Good, James E. unable to collect.....	4	15
Jackson, Walter unable to collect.....	1	00
Yesso, Wm. unable to collect.....	1	00
Yesso, Patrick, unable to collect.....	1	00
Long, Thomas unable to collect.....	1	00
Maxwell, J. M. unable to collect.....	1	00
Newton, Russell unable to collect.....	1	00
Poland, Joseph E. C. unable to collect.....	37	
Purrington, Harry unable to collect.....	1	00
Walker, Wm. H. unable to pay.....	1	00
Ward, Chas. unable to collect.....	1	00
Agnaning, Thomas poll of '93.....	1	00
Antonio, John poll of '93.....	1	00
Adams, Lester M.	1	00
Burgess, Julius E. poll and personal of '93, un- able to collect.....	1	62
Berub, H. poll of '93, unable to collect.....	1	00
Baker, Laforest unable to collect.....	1	00
Berry, Geo. A. unable to collect.....	1	21
Casey, Andrew unable to collect.....	1	00
Corliss, William H.....	2	25
Cutting, Simeon overvalued.....	3	04
Collins, John J. unable to collect.....	1	00
Connors, Edward unable to collect.....	1	00

Cary, Mark unable to collect	1 00
Cayton, Thomas unable to collect.....	1 00
Devine, Patrick unable to collect.....	1 00
Donhue, James unable to collect.....	1 00
Dorr, Robert unable to collect.....	1 00
Deonne, Leopole unable to collect.....	1 00
Dumpley, James unable to collect.....	1 00
Ernest, Leonard unable to collect.....	1 00
Gammon, Daniel real and personal, unable to pay...	9 87
Glover, Adelbert unable to collect.....	1 00
Gould Den	1 00
Gallant, Joseph.....	1 00
Gessner, Wm.....	1 00
Hatham, Wame.....	4 96
Happ, George	1 00
Humans, James	1 00
Haines, Willis	1 00
Hoston, John.....	1 00
Howley, Patrick.....	1 00
Jewers, Wm,	1 00
Keenan, Thomas.....	1 00
Ligere, Frank.....	1 00
Messello, Frank.....	9 80
Norton, Geo. D.	1 40
Poland, Joseph E. C.	70
Purrington, Harry S.....	1 00
Perkins, Wm. J.....	15 96
Reed, Jesse W.	9 80
Riley, Mathew	1 00
Roy, Richard.....	1 00
Straton, R. B.	1 00
Sullivan, Michael	1 00
Smith, John.....	1 00
Howley, Joseph.....	1 00
Shillins, Elmer	1 41
Slatter, Frank	1 00
Sanborn, Frank	2 06
Tidd, Chas.....	3 20
Treno, Andenio.....	1 88
Vanson, Wm. J.	1 00

Verrill, Sylvanus.....	1 00
Walker, Wm. H., unable to pay.....	1 00
Whittaker, Wm., unable to collect	1 00
Welch, John.....	1 00
Willis, Chas.....	1 00
Whitman, Anson	1 00
Wilson, Geo.	1 00
McKnight, Frank, overvaluation.....	4 40
Davis, Abel A.....	3 52
Total amount of abatements	\$143 20

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

Paid E. N. Carver for printing, more than estimated last year	\$1 00
Paid E. N. Carver for advertising for overseers and supervisor	2 00
Paid Wm. S. Walker for blank books	6 05
Paid H. R. Robinson for surveying Farrar road in '93	1 00
Paid rent of meeting house for '88, '89 and '90.....	55 00
Paid Dr. Ryan for vaccinating.....	48 60
Paid E. M. Howard for land damage.....	125 00
Paid rent of Union hall.....	10 00
Paid Henry Rowe for housing road machine.....	1 00
Paid Daniel Fletcher for error in tax bills of 1892	184 89
Paid Clerk of courts for reports of County Commissioners	3 08
Paid D. W. Walker for running line on town farm...	1 25
Paid B. F. Thomas for investigating settlement of Geo. B. Manson.....	5 00
Paid rent of building for school's at Rumford Falls	40 00
Paid cash expenses of town officers.....	19 97
Estimated cost of printing this report	10 50
Total.....	\$514 34

TOWN OFFICERS' BILLS.

S. F. Robinson, town clerk.....	\$10 50
W. S. Walker, treasurer.....	25 00
D. W. Goding, selectman, assessor, etc.....	70 75
A. S. Holman, selectman, assessor, etc.....	46 50

Geo, L. Rowe, selectman, assessor, etc	37	50
Joseph A. Putnam, supervisor of schools,.....	77	40
A. S. Hazelton, collector of taxes	103	69
A. A. Eastman, board of health.....	10	50
M. Hall, board of health	13	00
O. O. Tracy, board of health.....	2	50
Total		\$397 34

CURRENT EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR.

Expense of poor for 1894.....	\$962	63
Expended on roads and bridges.....	1,129	42
Orders of abatement of taxes.....	143	20
Incidental expenses.....	514	34
Town officers' bills.....	397	34
Interest accrued during the year.....	290	34
Interest on permanent school fund.....	34	38
		\$3,471 65

CREDITS.

Amount voted by town to pay charges.....	\$2,800	00
Overlay	262	01
Deficient highway of 1893 returned.....	213	20
Received from dog tax of 1892.....	31	00
Received from State on account of dog tax of '93....	58	95
Due from C. E. Morse or town of Brunswick.....	26	92
Due from town of Presque Isle.....	134	75
Due from town of Milford	22	00
		\$3,548 83
Balance in favor of the year 1894.....	\$77	18

FINANCIAL STANDING OF THE TOWN.

LIABILITIES.

Orders outstanding bearing interest at 4 per cent.....	\$7,466	00
Interest due to Feb. 20, 1895.....	265	51
Orders not on interest.....	270	00
Due the schools.....	284	32
Bills due orders not drawn:		
Town officers' bills	397	34

Daniel Fletcher's percentage for collecting tax of

'93	39	26
Due A. K. P. Trask on town farm account.....	42	10
Claimed by town of Leeds for doctor of F. J. Wing	24	00
Estimated cost of printing this report.....	10	50
Due for rent of Union Hall.....	10	00
		<hr/>
Total liabilities	\$8,869	03

RESOURCES.

In hands of the treasurer.....	\$4,775	13
Due from State on school money.....	179	79
Due from State for pensions.....	72	00
Due from C. E. Morse, or town of Brunswick.....	26	92
Due from Presque Isle.....	134	75
Due from town of Milford.....	22	00
		<hr/>
	\$5,210	59
Indebtedness above means to pay.....	\$3,658	44

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

WM. S. WALKER, TREASURER OF PERU FOR 1894.

—DR.—

1894.

March 7,	To amount due on tax bills of 1892.....	\$578 13
“ “	To amount due on tax bills of '93.....	2,835 41
“ “	To amount of tax deeds on hand.....	290 16
“ “	To cash on hand.....	549 17
May 30,	To cash hired by selectmen	400 00
July 3,	To cash hired by selectmen.....	250 00
“ 14.	To Amt. of A. S. Hazeltons tax bills ...	4,937 58
Sept. 3,	To cash hired by selectmen.....	100 00
Oct.	To cash for oxen from town farm.....	80 00
	To dog tax of 1892.....	31 60
	To cash from state on account dog tax '93	58 95
	To dog license of 1894.....	51 00
	To license for circus.....	2 00
	To cash rec'd from state, for sheep killed by dogs	12 50
	To interest on tax deed	45
		\$10,176 35

—CR—

1895

Feb. 16,	By amt. due on tax bills 1893.....	223 92
“ 16,	By amt. due on tax bills of 1894.....	3,622 72
“ “	By tax deeds on hand.....	242 89
“ “	By orders and receipts turned over.....	5,401 22
“ “	By cash on hand to balance	685 60
		\$10,176 35

All of which is respectfully submitted.

DANA W. GODING, ALBERT S. HOLMAN, GEORGE L. ROWE,	}	Selectmen of Peru.
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REPORT OF SUPERVISOR.

AS SUPERVISOR OF SCHOOLS I SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING REPORT.

Fellow Townsmen:—The condition of schools as now located is such, that the necessity of wise action regarding them seems to be so commanding that I feel myself unequal to the needs of this report.

The management of schools during the past year, may, in part, furnish some means by which we can know whether or not it is practical and otherwise beneficial to the town, as a whole, to get along with fewer schools at a less expense and better quality and so conform to the present school law; I hope that, aside from selfish motives and minor inconvenience, we may consider well the matter of reducing school expense to its minimum and at the same time, rendering schools more interesting and consequently more successful.

True, the matter of abolishing schools in certain localities presents an embarrassing problem, but not one which cannot by hard study be advantageously solved.

Through advise of the committee at the beginning of the school year I made an investigation within the limit of Waite school and finding only two pupils liable to attend in summer, made arrangements for them to be conveyed to the Center school by Ellen C. Babb, teacher of that school, and also made an investigation within the limit of Head of Pond school and finding only four pupils, whom it would be unfair to require to attend Foot of Pond school without conveyance, made arrangement for them to be conveyed to this school by Hartwell Oldham.

My experience has taught me that a school of less than twelve pupils is more likely to prove unprofitable than otherwise. a school of that number in which the children are of nearly equal ability with common interest, and lessons might be a model but in an ungraded school this seldom happens.

You cannot isolate a child and expect him to be interested in the highest degree in anything. Social intercourse is as essential to success as hard study.

There needs to be the stimulation of honest rivalry in study and recitation, again no teacher however trained and equipped, ever reaches his highest success in a small school, there is so little to rouse the ambition or stimulate the effort, no one ever does his best until the occasion of necessity calls out all the power there is in him, for the above reasons and in consideration of expense.

I do believe that some action can be taken within the precinct and intention of the present school law to benefit the town as a whole, without abuse to those who carelessly think it is of great detriment to them.

The result of suspending Head of Pond and Waite schools I believe to have been beneficial to these schools and at the same time a saving in expense to the town, whether or not this policy shall be continued in these schools and extended to others, rests with the school committee unless some action is taken at the annual town meeting.

I am of the opinion that some action upon this and relative question should be taken, from the fact that the powers of school officers are too limited to establish any permanent policy. There is furthermore apparent injustice in discontinuing a school and hiring scholars conveyed to other schools, while many of the children in established schools have further to travel and must get there as best they can. This entire question relating to the increased efficiency of schools, the rights of individuals and economy in expenditure should be carefully inquired into and definite and conclusive action taken thereon by the town without delay, also the matter relating to the exchange of books and the establishment of school and book system.

System is the foundation of all business which is in the highest degree successful. The interest displayed by many parents for the welfare of their scholars has been most gratifying cooperation between parents, teachers and school officers is essential to successful school work, and when parents feel that their children are not progressing as they should, let them first inquire of themselves if they are doing their full duty in the matter. If parents are indifferent, or seemingly so, we may reasonably expect the child to be the same. Parents look first to your own right action and then, you may justly inquire elsewhere for the cause of your children's failure.

As has been the custom, I will speak briefly of schools in

different parts of the town, hoping thus to furnish some information which may be of use to my successor as supervisor in employing efficient teachers for the different schools.

East School:—Both summer and winter terms of this school were taught by Mary E. Crockett, who has trained herself for the profession. She has now taught forty-eight terms and is faithful in the vocation. This school is as near a model as an ungraded school can be.

Center School:—Summer term of this school, to which scholars from Waite school were conveyed, was taught by Mrs. Ellen C. Babb; a teacher of twenty-five terms experience. Mrs. Babb is an enthusiastic teacher; her methods practical and plain and I think her able services were appreciated in this school.

Center School:—Fall term was taught by Miss Ada Gerrish who is well equipped for the profession; the characteristic property of Miss Gerrish's teaching is to awaken interest; the manner in which she conducts recitations is pleasing to any careful observer. This school was perfectly successful.

West School:—Summer term of this school was taught by E. Etta Holman of Dixfield, a Normal school graduate. This was Miss Holman's tenth term; her Normal training combined with good strict discipline and natural ability to impart knowledge served to make this term a success.

West School:—Winter term was taught by L. C. Putnam, an experienced teacher. Mr Putnam is a thoroughly practical instructor; scholars were here taught to think for themselves and not to receive from their teacher a ready made answer, which is the worst service a teacher can render to his pupils; while this school is large, requiring much work, a great amount of thorough advancement was made.

Wyman School:—The summer term was taught by Miss Julia J. Howard. Miss Howard is a thorough scholar and an excellent disciplinarian; this term was entirely satisfactory.

Woman School:—Winter term was taught by A. M. Curtis, a teacher of sixteen terms experience. Mr. Curtis is a wide awake teacher; he displayed some classes during my last visit to this school, which showed excellent care and pains-taking on the part of both pupils and teacher.

Falls School:—Summer term was taught by Ernest E.

Austin. This was Mr Austin's first term and considering the difficulties to overcome, I think he did well.

Falls School:—Fall term was commenced by E. C. Hussey, sickness prevailing over him, he was obliged to quit, after teaching 5 2-5 weeks. Soon A. M. Curtis was hired to take his position continuing the school 4 3-5 weeks, making a term of ten weeks; the scholars made rapid improvement during this term.

Dickvale School:—Summer term was under the instruction of Ada E. Gerrish; success attended her efforts in this school.

Winter term:—Edwin C. Hussey was engaged to begin this school the second Monday in November but on account of sickness was unable to begin then; deeming his service as teacher valuable and encouraged by the prospect that he would soon be able to teach, we waited for him until Dec. 17, when he began the school, after teaching 2 3-5 weeks, he was regretfully obliged to recede. Mr. John S. Dyer, a Normal graduate was immediately summoned to continue this term of school, and proved himself well worthy of his hire.

Knox School:—Bertha S. Goggin had charge of both summer and winter terms; the summer term was Miss Goggin's first attempt to teach. The government in this school ranks with the best and being combined with system, adaptability to teach and application to duty, effected a profitable school year.

Waite School:—Summer term was suspended. Fall term which was composed of pupils from different schools was taught by Mary E. Crockett with her usual good success.

Foot of Pond School:—Nellie M. Castle was employed in this school for the school year. Miss Castle is one of our best teachers; she has a very effectual way of encouraging scholars to take an interest in their work and presents her work with neatness and rapidity.

Head of Pond School:—Summer term of this school was suspended. Winter term was taught by Clara E. Curtis, who had had some previous experience in teaching and did very good work in this school; but to make a school of five pupils as successful and profitable, as one of medium size would be an absolute impossibility; association is necessary to healthy development.

Ridge School:—Summer term was under the instruction

of Clara E. Curtis, who gave substantial assistance to the pupils in this school; at the close of this term, good progress was noticeable.

Ridge School:—Winter term was under care of Ada E. Gerrish, who made it very interesting to the supervisor during his last visit by representing with a down-right hard test the advancement of the scholars in this school; their thoroughness and their aptness in making application of the ideas possessed.

I do especially commend the the order in this school.

STATISTICS

Number of persons in town from 5 to 21 years of age who have attended school, 215.

Teacher	School	Term	No. of weeks	Regular Attend'ce	Average Attend'ce	Pay per week	Pay per term	Board per term	Conveying scholars	Wood and fitting	Care of houses etc.	Total	Total
Mary E. Crockett.....	East,	Summer	10	20	18	5	5 00	50 00	16	50	.....	.....	.....
Mary E. Crockett.....	"	Winter	10	24	21	5	5 50	55 00	17	50	.....	7 00	5 56
Ellen Babb.....	Centre,	Summer	10	13	12	4	3 50	35 00	15	00	.....	.....	.....
Ada Gerrish.....	"	Fall	10	14	11	3	5 00	35 00	15	00	.....	60 2 25	102 85
Etta Holman.....	West,	Summer	10	28	24	9	5 00	50 00	20	00	.....	.....	.....
L. C. Putnam.....	"	Winter	10	36	31	7	5 00	75 00	25	00	.....	7 00	4 07
Julia Howard.....	Wyman,	Summer	10	30	25	4	0 00	40 00	20	00	.....	.....	.....
A. M. Curtis.....	"	Winter	10	37	29	7	5 00	75 00	25	00	.....	2 00	2 00
Ernest Austin.....	Falls	Summer	10	23	17	4	0 00	40 00	25	00	.....	.....	.....
Edwin Hussey.....	"	Fall	5	2-5	27	20	5 00	55 75	25	00	.....	.....	.....
A. M. Curtis.....	"	"	4	3-5	.....	.....	6 25	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 00	1 50
Ada Gerrish.....	Dickvale	Summer	10	19	15	5	0 00	50 00	17	50	.....	.....	.....
John Dyer.....	"	Winter	10	21	.....	5	5 00	55 00	20	00	.....	7 50	2 00
Bertha Goggin.....	Knox	Summer	10	13	11	3	0 00	30 00	12	50	.....	.....	.....
Bertha Goggin.....	"	Winter	10	9	7	3	25	32 50	13	50	.....	5 00	2 25
.....	Waite	*Summer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	.....	.....	.....
Mary Crockett.....	"	Fall	10	23	17	4	0 00	40 00	20	00	.....	.....	72 75
Nellie Castle.....	Foot of Pd.	Summer	10	17	15	4	0 00	40 00	20	00	.....	.....	.....
Nellie Castle.....	" " "	Winter	10	10	9	3	50	35 00	20	00	.....	6.	3 50
.....	Head " "	*Summer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20	.....	.....	.....
Clara Curtis.....	" " "	Fall	10	7	5	2	50	25 00	15	00	.....	4 50	1. 65 50
Clara Curtis.....	Ridge	Summer	10	11	9	3.	.....	30 00	15	00	.....	.....	.....
Ada Gerrish.....	"	Winter	10	13	11	4.	.....	40 00	14	00	.....	3 50	3 42
												105 92	\$1369.12

*Notice that "Head of Pond" and "Waite summer schools of 20 weeks each were supported at a cost of \$35.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

Total expenses of schools from table on opposite page.....	\$1,369 12
Books and Express	37 78
Crayons, broom, etc.....	5 84
<hr/>	
Total expenditures for schools during the year, \$1,412 64 from which subtract.....	66 89
Which, as I understand, should be applied to amt. raised to defray town charges, leaves	
expended for support of schools	1,345 75
Unexpended balance for support of schools	243 11
	<hr/>
	\$1,588 86
Unexpended bal. from last year.....	\$31 00
Received from State	723 48
Appropriated by town	800 00
Int. on permanent school fund.....	34 38
	<hr/>
	\$1,588 86

Respectfully Submitted,

JOSEPH A. PUTNAM, SUPERVISOR.

The committee recommend that the town raise \$150 for repairing school houses the coming year.



REPORT OF BOARD OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 16, 1895.

There have been comparatively few cases of contagious diseases in town the past year.

There have been nine cases of Typhoid fever in five different houses.

In each case the disease has been confined to the premises where it occurred. One case proved fatal.

There has been one case of diphtheria which proved fatal.

A. A. EASTMAN,
M. HALL,
O. O. TRACY, } Board of Health.

O. M. Richardson & Co.

CANTON, MAINE.

AGENTS FOR THE BOWKER FERTILIZER CO.

The phenomenal acre of potatoes raised by Chas. B. Coy, of Presque Isle, Me. 738 bushels; for which he was awarded the Grand prize of \$1.100, offered by the American Agriculturist, was grown on Stockbridge potato manure alone. The Stockbridge led over all competitors. The Stockbridge manures are double strength. A ton of Stockbridge will go as far as 2 tons of other fertilizers.

STOCKBRIDGE SPECIAL MANURES.

Stockbridge Potato Manure.

“ Corn “
“ Grass “
“ Fruit “

Price of the above \$2.00 per hundred.

BOWKER'S FERTILIZERS.

Bowker's Hill and Drill Phosphate, \$1.75 hun.

“ Sure Crop “ 1.60 “

“ Farm and Garden “ 1.70 “

Send or call for pamphlet.

If you want the best garden seeds for this latitude; buy of us. Seed Peas, Corn and beans, Onion Sets, etc., at lowest possible prices.

Don't buy seeds that have lain in grocery stores for years.

We warrant our seeds to be fresh and reliable. Illustrated 40 pp. catalogue; Free.

Our Seed Business

Extends to every part of America. We send annually over 4 tons of mail matter through the Canton post-office, while our incoming mail aggregates over 35,000 letters; an average of 116 letters per day for the entire year; more than the entire number received by all other patrons of the post-office combined.

Thousands say our seeds are the best. Give us a call, we give free extras to all customers.

5 greenhouses. 6000 sq. ft. of glass.

O. M. RICHARDSON & Co.