

1905

Annual Report of the Municipal Officers of the Town of Peru, For The Year Ending February 15, 1905

Peru (Me.)

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Municipal Officers

OF THE

TOWN OF PERU

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

February, 15, 1905

RUMFORD FALLS, ME.
MAINE PUBLISHING COMPANY
1905

Town Officers

Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of Poor:

A. S. HOLMAN, JAMES W. GOWELL, BENJAMIN LOVEJOY

Clerk:

W. S. ARNOLD

Treasurer:

H. R. ROBINSON

Superintendent of Schools:

CHARLES S. WALKER

Collector and Constable:

WILLARD S. ARNOLD

Superintending School Committee.

N. B. WOODSUM, HENRY ROBINSON, HOWARD TURNER

Board of Health:

HOLLIS TURNER, M. HALL, E. G. CHILD

Truant Officer:

CHARLES A. WILSON

Ballot Clerks:

O. C. HOPKINS, HOLLIS TURNER

Report of Selectmen

The Selectmen of the Town of Peru submit the following report for the year ending February 15, 1905 :

VALUATION

Resident estate, real,	\$147,553 00
Non-resident estate, real,	26,339 00
Resident estate, personal,	46,755 00
Non-resident estate, personal,	2,410 00
Total valuation,	<hr/> \$223,037 00

APPROPRIATED AND ASSESSED

State tax,	\$ 669 60
County tax,	400 47
To defray town charges,	1,000 00
Roads and bridges,	2,000 00
New steel bridge,	1,000 00
Schools,	1,000 00
School books,	75 00
New School house,	700 00
Overlay,	55 04

Total amount of commitment,	\$6,900 11
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Percentage of assessments, .03 on the dollar ; 209 polls at \$1.00 each.

TOWN FARM ACCOUNT

We have leased the farm and personal property thereon to A. B. McIntire for one year, from April 6, 1904. He is to support Lenora Knight. He is to leave the farm and personal property in as good condition as he received it. Schedule of personal property on farm: 12 hens, 100 pounds of pork, 3 tons of hay, farming tools and household furniture same as last year.

EXPENDITURES

Paid Barrett & Kidder for grass seed		
and hardware for repairs,	\$4 89	
Paid R. A. Pinkham for wall paper,	3 79	
	<hr/>	\$8 68

EXPENSE OF POOR NOT ON THE FARM

Paid for support of Daniel Gammon		
and wife,	\$471 00	
Paid for support of Wallace DeShon,	103 60	
“ “ C. H. Wing,	165 39	
“ “ Jonn M. Blake,	9 82	
	<hr/>	\$749 81
Total,		<hr/> \$758 49

Received from State on account of		
C. H. Wing,	\$144 88	
Due from State on account of C. H.		
Wing,	11 55	
Due from town of Gray,	9 82	
	<hr/>	\$166 25
Total expense of poor,		<hr/> \$592 24

ROADS AND BRIDGES

Amount voted by town,	\$2,000 00
Amount expended from February 15, 1904, to February 15, 1905,	\$1,824 68
	<hr/>
Unexpended,	\$ 175 32

NEW STEEL BRIDGE

Appropriation,	\$ 1,000 00
Paid for bridge,	500 00
Paid for abutments,	831 25
	<hr/>
Total,	\$1,331 25

SCHOOLS

RECEIPTS

Amount raised by town,	\$1,000 00
Unexpended balance,	15 87
Interest on permanent school fund,	34 38
Received from State,	589 54
	<hr/>
	\$1,639 79

DISBURSEMENTS

Teachers' wages,	\$1,429 50
Fuel,	78 15
Janitors' wages,	17 50
Conveying,	53 00 \$1,578 15
	<hr/>
Unexpended balance,	\$61 64

NEW SCHOOL HOUSE ACCOUNT

Receipts appropriated,	\$700 00	
Received for old building	20 00	
	<hr/>	\$720 00
Disbursements for building and lot,		747 54
		<hr/>
Over-expended,		\$ 27 54

ABATEMENTS, 1903

Horace A. Clark, real and personal,	36 53	
Heirs of Abel A. Davis, real,	2 60	
Nathaniel Fletcher, personal and poll,	2 95	
Stillman Bishop, poll,	1 00	
Charles A. Frost, poll,	1 00	
George E. Getchell, poll,	1 00	
Chas. A. Hallowell, poll and personal	2 33	
Heirs of Geo. W. Gordon, real,	52	
Clarence H. Oldham, poll,	1 00	
Gervace Hodsdon, poll,	1 00	
	<hr/>	\$ 49 93

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES

Paid expense of running ferry,	\$12 30	
J. S. Sturdevant for certificates of births and deaths,	4 50	
Bisbee & McCarty for certificates of births and deaths	1 25	
F. W. Morse,	1 25	
Incidentals for schools,	25 20	
Estimated cost of printing report,	10 00	
For printing report of 1904, more than estimated,	40	

Incidentals for Superintendent of Schools,	\$6 20	
Tuition for Clarence and Ethel Robinson,	74 00	
Tuition of Dora Hazelton,	13 00	
Selectmen's incidentals,	13 73	
Fencing school lots,	36 40	
For blank books,	8 18	
H. R. Robinson, incidentals,	2 50	
Bounty on Porcupines,	51 25	
	<hr/>	\$260 16
Received from State on account of tuition,	27 00	
Due from State on account of tuition,	16 50	
Due from State on account of Porcu- pine bounty,	51 25	
Due from State on account of Dixfield Ferry,	6 15	
	<hr/>	\$100 90
Total incidentals,		<hr/> \$159 26

TOWN OFFICERS' BILLS

Paid W. S. Arnold, town clerk,	\$14 99
H. R. Robinson, treasurer,	35 00
C. S. Walker, superintendent,	98 50
H. R. Robinson, member School Board,	9 00
Howard Turner, member School Board,	9 75
N. B. Woodsum, member School Board,	4 50
Chas. A. Wilson, truant officer,	3 70

M. Hall, member Board of Health,	\$3 00	
Hollis Turner, member of Board of Health,	3 00	
E. G. Child, member Board of Health,	....
Hollis Turner, ballot clerk,	2 25	
O. C. Hopkins, ballot clerk,	2 25	
A. S. Holman, selectman,	75 00	
James W. Gowell,	50 30	
Benjamin Lovejoy,	48 25	
Due W. S. Arnold, collector for 1904,	103 50	
	<hr/>	\$462 99

CURRENT EXPENSES

Expenses of poor for 1904,	\$ 592 24	
Expenses of roads and bridges,	1,824 68	
Orders of abatements,	49 93	
Incidental expenses,	.159 26	
Town officers' bills,	462 99	
Interest on permanent school fund,	34 38	
Interest accrued during year,	86 84	
Repairs on school houses	138 19	
New school house,	727 54	
School books,	174 88	
New bridge,	1,331 25	
	<hr/>	\$5,582 18

RECEIPTS

Amount voted to defray town charges,	\$1000 00
For roads and bridges,	2,000 00
For new bridge,	1,000 00
For school books,	75 00
For new school house,	700 00
Overlay,	55 04
Amount received from State dog lic- ense refunded,	68 14

Amount received for rent of Daniel Gammon's farm and effects,	\$29 11	
Received interest on tax deeds,	33 05	
Received of A. S. Holman error in settlement of treasurer, 1904,	4 69	
Received from supt. of schools for books and supplies sold,	5 50	
Received rent of town hall,	10 00	\$4,980 53
	<hr/>	
Balance against the year,		\$ 601 65

FINANCIAL STANDING OF THE TOWN

LIABILITIES

Outstanding notes bearing interest	\$1,950 49	
Interest due February 15, 1905,	204 17	
Outstanding orders not on interest,	973 13	
Due the schools,	61 64	
Due the collector for the years 1903 and 1904,	219 22	
Estimated cost of printing report,	10 00	
	<hr/>	
		\$3,418 65

ASSETS

Assets in the hands of the treasurer,	\$5,310 52	
Town farm and personal property,	533 00	
Due from state for poor,	11 55	
Due from state on account of porcupine bounty,	96 25	
Due from the town of Gray,	9 82	
Due from the town of Dixfield,	6 15	
	<hr/>	
		5,967 29
		<hr/>
Assets more than liabilities,		2,548 64

A. S. HOLMAN,	}	SELECTMEN OF PERU.
JAMES W. GOWELL,		
BENJAMIN LOVEJOY,		

Treasurer's Report

Feb. 15, 1904.

Dr.

To amount due on tax bills of 1903,	\$4,814	54
Tax deeds,	268	96
Cash,	848	55
		<hr/>
		\$5,932 05

March 8, 1904.

Cr.

By amount due on tax bills of 1903,	\$4,575	74
Tax deeds,	268	96
Orders turned over,	1,079	48
By cash,	7	87
		<hr/>
		\$5,932 05

W. S. WALKER,
Treasurer.

March 8, 1904.

Dr.

To amount due on tax bills of 1903,	\$4,575	76
Tax deeds,	268	99
Cash,	7	87
March 14. To cash received from State on account of paupers		63 92

April 18.	To cash received from State dog licenses refunded,	62 14
May 19.	Received from town clerk dog license,	65 00
May 20.	Received from State on account of paupers,	60 00
May 23.	Received from select- men for use of Daniel Gammon's Farm,	20 00
May 24.	To tax bills of 1904,	6,900 11
July 22.	Received from town clerk dog licenses,	29 00
	Received from town of Livermore,	5 00
Sept. 12.	Received from select- men for Knox school house,	20 00
Sept. 24.	Received interest on tax deeds,	3 25
Oct. 14.	Received from State on account of paupers,	30 00
Oct. 14.	Received interest on tax deeds from the state,	20 85
Dec. 8.	Received tuitions re- funded from the state,	27 00
Dec. 10.	Received rent of town hall,	20 00
	Received interest on tax deeds,	8 95
1905.		
Jan. 5.	Received from State for paupers,	54 88

Jan. 5.	Received school fund,	589 54
Feb. 14.	Received from Superintendent of Schools for books and supplies sold,	5 50
Feb. 14.	Received from A. S. Holman,	4 69
Feb. 14.	Received from Benj. Lovejoy effects of Daniel Gammon,	9 11
		<hr/>
		\$12,851 51

Feb. 14, 1905. *Cr.*

By amount due on tax bills of 1903,	\$ 167 65
“ “ “ 1904,	4,775 21
By tax deeds on hand,	118 43
By orders and receipts turned over,	7,540 99
By cash,	249 23
	<hr/>
	\$12,851 51

HENRY R. ROBINSON,
TREASURER,

Report of the School Committee

To the Citizens of Peru:

We herewith submit our report for the year ending February 14, 1905. Following it are some extracts from the school laws that we wish to bring to your notice, the enforcement of which, to a certain extent, is one of the duties of the School Board; also recommendations for appropriations for the ensuing year, and the report of the Superintendent of Schools, which we have accepted and recommend for your consideration.

At the first meeting of the School Board, held March 16, 1904, we organized with H. R. Robinson as chairman and elected C. S. Walker as Superintendent of Schools and Secretary of the Board.

Building the new school house, changes of text-books, considering employment of teachers, an effort to grade the schools, and the regular school work has compelled the Board to put more time and thought into the school work than has formerly been done. And while we have not been able to accomplish as much as we wished to do this year, yet with your earnest and hearty co-operation in the future, much more can be done and very substantial gains made each year. This will, however, depend to a very great extent, upon the attitude of the citizens of the town, not upon your School Board.

We would ask you to carefully consider the various matters in the Superintendent's report especially that with reference to the high school scholars.

We recommend the following appropriations for the ensuing year :

For Common Schools not less than.....	\$1000
For Text-Books and Supplies.....	150
For Repairs.....	75

H. R. ROBINSON, N. B. WOODSUM, HOWARD TURNER,	}	SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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REPORT OF Superintendent of Schools

To the Superintending School Committee:

I have the honor to submit to you my Annual Report. In justice to myself it should be noted that I undertook this work after being out of touch with actual school work in general for twenty years, and was totally unacquainted with the condition and special needs of the common schools of this town. For this reason my administration, except as regards universally accepted plans and methods, has been along conservative lines. Prevailing faults in school work can best be remedied when well understood.

It is gratifying to be able to say that my relations with your Board have been uniformly pleasant and cordial, and I have fully appreciated your deep interest and prompt aid in all departments of our school work. I feel that the town is to be congratulated in that the School Board has this year been a factor in our school administration, and I trust that in future both the town and the Superintendents will expect and require of the Board, the performance of the duties which legally fall to its members. I will briefly review the work of the year in the different departments, with recommendations relating to the same.

REPAIRS

No appropriation for repair of school buildings was made at the last annual meeting, the unexpended balance

from former years being considered sufficient for all probable needs. This estimate proved correct to the extent that when the funds for text-books were exhausted early in the fall, it was thought that \$100 could be transferred from the repair fund to the text-book fund, and the town at a special meeting, September 12, 1904, voted to make the transfer. Some of the larger items for repairs have been a new ceiling in the East School, a second painting for the Union School, and a thorough painting and puttying of the sash and a supply of improved black-board surface in several of the school buildings.

Attention is here called to the general unfavorable conditions in and around the East School building. This school is destitute of school grounds, in consequence of which the pupils during recreation hours are scattered about town and exposed not only to danger but to influences that are unfavorable to the best work and proper discipline in the school room. The out-building is unsuitable, and under present conditions cannot be properly located. The foundation of the building is defective and the interior arrangement of the school room is extremely faulty. When the citizens who are most directly interested in the welfare of this school can offer some satisfactory proposition for its betterment, it is altogether probable that the town will not be slow to make the appropriation for carrying out the same.

NEW BUILDING

In accordance with the vote of the town a new school building has been completed for the Highland School. The cost of this building and a new lot was \$747.54. The appropriation was \$700, and the old building sold for \$27.54. In the erection of this building the citizens of the neighborhood generously donated a considerable amount of labor, thus making a material saving in the outlay.

Besides this the furniture for this room was taken from the unused building in Franklin Annex, and in this way the ordinary expense for seats was avoided. Last year the Union School building was commenced on an equal appropriation, which was found inadequate. The insufficiency of the appropriation in these two cases should indicate that the idea of erecting good school buildings on a \$700.00 appropriation had better be abandoned.

TEXT-BOOKS

Aside from spelling books and Mental Arithmetics the absolute present requirements of our schools in the line of text-books are supplied. But in maps and charts, which are equally as necessary as text-books, the schools are totally destitute of anything of the least value.

In this line, if durable and satisfactory goods in sufficient amount be purchased, an expenditure of nearly \$20.00 per school would be needed. A beginning, however, could be made on perhaps \$10.00 per school. It appears that last year we expended over \$150.00, and this year we expended \$174.88 for text-books in order to supply the bare necessities of our schools in books alone. In the coming year we shall have at least one hundred and fifty pupils, and \$1.00 per pupil for text-books, etc., would in most towns be considered a meagre sum.

THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE

of which we have local organizations in each of our schools (six of them having been newly organized, and the other revived within the year) should not be passed without words of commendation. In our town its work is in its infancy, but many of our citizens are beginning to realize some of its beneficial possibilities. Through these leagues two of our schools have started libraries, two have purchased large wall clocks, three

have raised school flags over their buildings, and two have purchased good organs for their rooms. Possibly there are those who, through some misunderstanding of the purposes and work of the league, have imagined that it is useless or even detrimental to our schools. For the consideration of such I will quote the opinion of one who ought to be an authority in the matter. In a recent circular, State Superintendent Stetson says :

“ The school leagues have improved hundreds of school yards and buildings and purchased thousands of volumes of books and an equal number of pictures. In not a few schools musical instruments have been provided, and statuary now finds a place in many of our school-rooms. Its best work, however, has not been found in enlarging and beautifying school grounds, adorning school-rooms, supplying needed material and apparatus, but in persuading parents and citizens generally to learn what the school is, decide what it should be, and assist in bringing it to its best estate. The value of the work of the league cannot be stated in words or estimated in terms. The results are to endure and in its triumph our schools are being signally blessed.”

THE FLAG AND THE LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE

While we are so busily engaged in teaching the three R's and other branches, we should not forget that we have the moulding of the future citizen in charge, and in this nothing is more important than the development of the finer sentiments of love of the “good, the true and the beautiful,” and the ennobling sentiment of patriotism. Along these lines it has been a daily practice throughout the year to spend some time in committing to memory, gems of thought from our best authors. Success in the development of national pride and love of country is attested by the fact that the American flag daily floats over every school house in our town.

OUR SCHOOLS

In the immediate conduct of our schools, it is a pleasure to report the hearty co-öperation and conscientious and untiring efforts on the part of our teachers. Some of our requirements this year have placed additional burdens on the teachers, but the necessity for the same has generally been recognized, and the instances of shirking and neglect on the part of the teachers have been agreeably few. At the same time some extra labor has been required of the pupils, and this has been performed in the same cheerful manner, and I can say that my association with the pupils has been so uniformly pleasant and free from serious annoyances that I have been able to feel a personal interest in each and every one. While it is more agreeable to dwell on the sunny side of the picture, I feel that I should be shirking a plain duty were I to fail to call attention to those conditions in and about our schools which are detrimental and demand earnest efforts for betterment from all citizens as well as pupils. Among the hindrances to efficiency in our schools is:

1. TOO MANY CLASSES

Our various schools have from twenty-two to thirty-three classes,—the latter number in a school of fifteen pupils. It would appear, then, that this teacher could give on the average but ten minutes to each class. Naturally the more advanced classes would receive more than the average amount of time, hence the lower classes would get something like six minutes per class, so that in such classes as had only reading and spelling combined, and are called only twice a day, the amount of time spent under drill and instruction by the teacher can be only about twelve minutes out of the six hours. Pupils in the middle classes with more studies would receive the

benefit of class work for not over an hour a day. Under such a condition, is it a matter of surprise that our pupils do not make rapid progress through our common schools?

The evident and only remedy that occurs to me is *the adoption of a course of study and a thorough grading of our schools.*

While it is a question whether we could, without too much friction, effect a grading so as to secure the full benefits which city and village schools enjoy with only one grade to a teacher and, therefore, have the entire school in contact with the teacher in one way or another for practically the whole day; a year's observation of the conditions and makeup of our schools has convinced me beyond a doubt that a course of study and a grading can be given here that will more than double the amount of work now possible.

2. THE LACK OF AMBITION IN THE PUPILS

The conditions just described will sufficiently account for this lack, and the remedy suggested will do much to put new life and energy into the pupils. In addition to this, I know of nothing that will afford so strong an incentive to regular attendance, hard study and vigorous school work, as the establishment of a permanent High School to supplement our present system or "unsystem" as it has been named by a former superintendent. As a further aid toward invigorating the tone of our schools we must appeal to the parents to enforce constant attendance, and to secure home study among the older pupils.

Regarding the evils of irregular attendance I quote from a report by Supt. Burleigh, inasmuch as the conditions he describes are fully equaled in this town.

"Granted that our schools have all that abundant means and a wise policy is able to provide by way of

equipment, there remains one necessary factor, as vital to success as it is too often lacking—regular attendance. The dislike of the majority of children for regular and persistent labor is natural. And when the child is humored by the parent the results are seen in poor attendance and poor work. If the absentee were the only sufferer the conditions would not be so serious. But when in a school registering seven pupils, there are forty-nine half days absence in a period of two weeks ; or in a school registering thirty-nine pupils there are one hundred sixteen absences in the same period, no teacher can keep the classes together or do justice to any, to say nothing of maintaining her own enthusiasm or the interest of the pupil. And to still further complicate matters the pupils who most need the work are nearly always the ones who are most often absent.”—RUMFORD REPORT, 1904.

3. A SERIOUS ABSENCE OF PRIDE IN AND LOYALTY TO THE LOCAL SCHOOL

This condition does not originate with the pupils, and the remedy cannot be applied in the school room. The absence of this essential and wholesome spirit is caused chiefly by indiscriminate criticism of teachers and school management by parents and others in the presence of the pupils.

This habit harms no one but the child of the parent who is unwise enough to indulge in it, unless, as in some cases, the evil influence extends to a neighbor's children. It is simply sowing the wind, and while the whirlwind may not in all instances be reaped, its natural fruitage is all that is undesirable in the development of the child. If a teacher be not absolutely perfect, the pupils will do far better work if they have respect for and confidence in the teacher, and the attitude of the parent

will have a strong influence for or against this desirable attitude on the part of the child.

OUR TEACHING FORCE

Some of our teachers for this year had had no previous experience, others had taught a few terms each, while four of our teachers had the benefits of long experience. While long familiarity with any kind of work adds to the worker's efficiency, we find that a teacher's success is not to be predicted with certainty on the number of terms she may have taught. When we undertake to supply ourselves with a full corps of first-class teachers we are handicapped in two ways: First, our school year is six or eight weeks shorter than that of progressive towns. Second, our scale of wages is 25 per cent. lower than a competent teacher can command elsewhere.

It is not wise to close our eyes to the weak points in our educational system, but grounds for expecting better things in future are to be found in a review of our

INCREASE IN SCHOOL PRIVILEGES IN A DECADE

In 1894 the town raised for schools \$800.00, by which a school year of twenty weeks was secured. From that time on with a varying appropriation the school year was from twenty to twenty-four weeks. In 1901 the town seemed to realize that its expenditure for public schools was not in proportion to the existing needs, and that year the annual appropriation was raised to \$900.00. This was continued, so that in 1902-3 twenty-seven and twenty-eight weeks respectively were furnished. At our last annual meeting the same public spirit and increased interest in our educational privileges was manifested by making an appropriation of \$1,000.00, thus making it possible to give a school year of thirty weeks. This is a record in which the town may well take pride. Our

thanks are especially due to that element in the town, who, though having no children of their own to educate, and so are not personally and selfishly interested, have taken the broader and higher view of public policy and realizing the ultimate economy of their action, have supported and voted these increased expenditures for education.

While this improvement is pleasant to dwell upon, we must not be oblivious to the fact that we have not yet reached the position in these matters which will compare favorably with other wide-awake and up-to-date towns of our state, or even with the average of the state as a whole, as is evidenced by the following facts. Last year the average expenditure in Maine for public schools per pupil in attendance was \$21.15, while the same for the town of Peru was only \$13.04. If we take a little wider view we shall see that for the same purpose Massachusetts expends \$41.98 per pupil.

The retrospect should be a source of satisfaction and encouragement; the needs of the present are a direct incentive to still further improvements and the future may well be bright with the anticipation of our attainment to the highest possible standing along the lines of education for the boys and girls of to-day who will be the citizens of to-morrow. Each year in town meeting we vote in less than a minute an appropriation of \$2,000.00 for highways. Are our girls and boys of as much importance? Does their education reasonably demand as many dollars? Shall I prove to be a false prophet when I predict that early in the next decade we shall be giving the education of the children the attention and the expense equal to that which we give the gravel in our roads?

Any advance leads us at once to the consideration of a measure, the needs of which have been manifesting

themselves to me from the time of my first visits to our schools during the Spring term, and the further acquaintance with them through the year has served to impress upon me with redoubled force, the imperative demand from every point of view for permanent establishment of a

HIGH SCHOOL

Why? At the end of the next Spring term we shall have thirty-five boys and girls fitted and anxious to enter upon an advanced course of study. They can receive no part of it in our common schools, for with the present multiplicity of classes we have brought them to this point only at the serious disadvantage of the younger pupils of our schools. If they remain longer in our common schools, it will be with unsatisfactory results to themselves, and at a still greater sacrifice of the interests of the lower classes, for with these advanced pupils in our schools as at present we shall have thirty-five classes where we have thirty now, and the results cannot be other than disastrous to all concerned.

This conclusion is the result of a broad view from all points on the high level of a *sound public policy* and *eventual economy*.

If we must, let us consider the proposition on purely selfish grounds, or the tax-payer's cold-blooded view. Under the present law, if the town does not maintain a high school, we are compelled to pay the tuition of pupils from this town who are attending high schools or academies out of town, or about \$30 per year for each pupil so attending. Now, if these thirty-five prospective high school students have the energy, the grit, the fibre and the ambition that I believe they have, I feel sure that at least one-third of them will in the near future seek advanced training in other institutions at our expense, if

they are denied it at home, in which case we will be called upon to pay tuition for the ten or twelve fortunate ones to the tune of from \$300 to \$360 per year, while for the establishment of a standard high school in our town, which would give equal privileges to the whole number, an appropriation of \$225 would be the maximum required under our Free High School law.

A high school is called for the benefit of the large number of advanced pupils who will become enrolled therein. The interests of the lower classes demand all the time that is now given to the upper class in the common school. The highest type of municipal economy which recognizes the inestimable benefits of the largest possible diffusion of knowledge, and the highest possible degree of mental training, demands the establishment of a high school. The narrowest type of economy which seeks the lowest tax rate at whatever sacrifice of the future welfare of the town, cannot consistently lead to a different conclusion. The combination of circumstances favorable to the consummation of this plan is to-day so striking that its failure would be nothing less than a calamity.

SUPERINTENDENCE

My experience with your schools for the past year has only served to confirm the opinion I have held for a long time,—that the educational interests of the town can best be subserved by a union with other towns in the employment of a superintendent of schools, thus making it possible to secure better service, and to pay for the same without excessive cost to the town.

In closing, I wish through you to express my thanks to the many citizens of the town for their deep interest in the welfare of our schools; their hearty co-öperation in the work I have tried to accomplish—(No, to simply commence; accomplishment is a matter of years), and for their many kindly words and acts which have done so much to render my pathway smooth and my work pleasant

CHAS. S. WALKER.

Peru, Feb. 16, 1905.

Report of Truant Officer

CHAS. S. WALKER, Superintendent :

Herewith is a report of the cases investigated by your
truant officer for the year ending February 10, 1905 :

Whole number investigated	-	-	9
Reasons for absence were as follows :			
Work in mills,	-	-	1
Had to eat dinner in horse-shed,	-	-	6
No reason assigned,	-	-	1
Sickness,	-	-	1

All were returned to school except in case of sickness.

CHAS. A. WILSON,
Truant Officer.

February 10, 1905.

Financial Statement

COMMON SCHOOL ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS

Unexpended balance, 1904,	\$ 15 87	
Appropriation,	1000 00	
School land fund,	34 38	
State fund,	589 54	
	<hr/>	\$1639 79

DISBURSEMENTS

Teachers' wages,	\$1429 50	
Fuel,	78 15	
Janitors,	17 50	
Conveyance	53 00	\$1578 15
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Unexpended balance,		\$61 64

REPAIRS ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS

Unexpended balance, 1904,	\$234 96
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DISBURSEMENTS

Transferred to book account,	\$100 00	
Paid for repairs,	138 19	\$238 19
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Over-expended,		\$3 23

TEXT-BOOK AND SUPPLIES ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS

Appropriation,	\$ 75 00	
Transfer from repairs account,	100 00	
Supplies sold,	4 95	
Books sold,	75	
	<hr/>	\$180 70

DISBURSEMENTS

Deficit, 1904,	\$ 35	
Paid for books and supplies,	174 88	\$175 23
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance unexpended		\$5 47

NEW BUILDING ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS

Appropriation,	\$700 00	
Old building,	20 00	
	<hr/>	\$720 00

DISBURSEMENTS

Expended for new building and lot,		\$747 54
		<hr/>
Over-expended,		\$27 54

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES

Under the new law we have during the year paid for tuition of pupils in high schools or academies as follows :

Paid to Hebron Academy,	-	-	\$38 00
Paid to Charleston Academy,	-	-	13 00
			<hr/>
Total	-	-	\$51 00

COMMON SCHOOL STATISTICS--Attendance, Etc.

NAME OF SCHOOL	TERM	NAME OF TEACHER	No. of Pupils Registered	Average Attendance	No. Not Absent 1-2 Day	Cases of Tardiness	Cases of Dismissal	No. of Daily Recitations	No. of Visits of Citizens	No. Visits of Supt.
EAST.....	Spring	.. Mamie G. DeShon.....	14	13	4	31	3	26	....	3
	Fall	.. Fostina E. Purington.....	13	12	1	114	6	26	4	3
	Winter	.. Fostina E. Purington.. ..	12	11	2	36	2	24	2	4
CENTER.....	Spring	.. Mary H. Austin.....	13	11	2	19	2	25	4	3
	Fall	.. Mary H. Austin.....	14	13	4	30	9	35	7	3
	Winter	.. Mary H. Austin.....	15	13	1	21	6	31	6	3
WEST.....	Spring	.. Mollie O. Freeman.....	33	30	11	19	8	26	18	3
	Fall	.. Mollie O. Freeman.....	33	27	3	29	3	29	11	3
	Winter	.. Mollie O. Freeman.....	36	24	3	30	3	30	15	3
DICKVALE...	Spring	.. May A. Childs.....	33	30	14	.....	....	33	8	4
	Fall	.. May A. Childs.....	33	30	10	....	....	30	4	3
	Winter	.. May A. Childs.....	26	22	....	50	....	30	3	2
HIGHLAND..	Spring	.. Jennie R. Irish.....	14	13	6	2	1	22	....	2
	Fall	.. Jennie R. Irish.....	14	13	9	5	2	20	3	2
	Winter	.. Edith M. Knight.....	11	10	4	28	7	27	3	3
UNION.....	Spring	.. Ada E. Knight.....	22	19	11	29	4	25	5	2
	Fall	.. Inez M. Stevens.....	30	14	1	18	14	22	2	4
	Winter	.. Minnie E. H. Thornton.....	18	13	3	21	3	30	...	3
POND.....	Spring	.. Marcia V. Hall.....	18	17	4	8	....	22	4	2
	Fall	.. Marcia V. Hall.....	19	15	1	16	....	23	3	2
	Winter	.. Marcia V. Hall.....	15	11	1	37	1	22	22	2

COMMON SCHOOL STATISTICS--Financial

NAME OF SCHOOL,	TERM	NAME OF TEACHER	Wages of Teacher	Number of Weeks	Total Paid Teachers	Cost of Fuel	Paid Janitor	Paid for Conveyance	Total Cost	Average Cost per Pupil
EAST.....	Spring	Mamie G. DeShon....	\$6 00	10	\$60 00	...	...	...	...	...
	Fall	Fostina E. Purington....	6 00	10	60 00	...	...	...	...	...
	Winter	Fostina E. Purington....	6 00	10	60 00	\$11 00	\$2 50	...	\$193 50	\$14 88
CENTER.....	Spring	Mary H. Austin.....	6 50	10	65 00	...	...	...	...	...
	Fall	Mary H. Austin.....	6 50	10	65 00	...	...	...	...	...
	Winter	Mary H. Austin.	6 50	10	65 00	14 98	2 50	...	212 48	15 18
WEST.....	Spring	Mollie O. Freeman.....	8 00	10	80 00	...	...	...	...	...
	Fall	Mollie O. Freeman.....	8 00	10	80 00	...	...	...	...	...
	Winter	Mollie O. Freeman.....	8 00	10	80 00	13 25	2 50	...	255 75	7 52
DICKVALE...	Spring	May A. Childs.....	8 00	10	80 00	...	...	...	...	...
	Fall	May A. Childs.....	8 00	10	80 00	...	...	...	...	...
	Winter	May A. Childs.....	8 00	10	80 00	10 25	2 50	...	252 75	8 15
HIGHLAND..	Spring	Jennie R. Irish.....	6 00	10	60 00	...	...	...	...	...
	Fall	Jennie R. Irish.....	6 00	10	60 00	...	...	...	...	...
	Winter	Edith M. Knight.....	6 00	10	60 00	6 00	2 50	...	188 50	14 50
UNION.....	Spring	Ada E. Knight.....	6 50	10	65 00	...	...	...	...	...
	Fall	Inez M. Stevens.....	6 50	10	65 00	...	...	...	...	...
	Winter	Minnie E. H. Thornton..	7 00	10	69 50	14 37	2 50	...	216 37	9 41
POND.....	Spring	Marcia V. Hall.....	6 50	10	65 00	...	...	\$15 00	...	...
	Fall	Marcia V. Hall.....	6 50	10	65 00	...	...	18 00	...	...
	Winter	Marcia V. Hall.....	6 50	10	65 00	8 80	2 50	20 00	259 30	15 25

Summary of School Statistics

	SPRING	FALL	WINTER
Total Enrollment,	147	156	133
Average Attendance	133	124	104
Number Cases Tardiness for the year,			543
“ “ Dismissal “ “ “			74
“ Pupils not absent 1/2 day each term,			95
Average No. of daily recitations,			27
Number of visits of Citizens,			115
“ “ “ “ Superintendent,			59

Extract from Laws of Maine, relating to Public Schools. Compulsory School Attendance

R. S. CHAPTER 15

SEC. 49. Every child between the seventh and fifteenth anniversaries of his birth shall attend some public day school during the time such school is in session; provided that necessary absence may be excused by the superintending school committee or superintendent of schools, or teachers acting by direction of either. * * * All persons having children under their control shall cause them to attend school as provided in this section, and for every neglect of such duty shall forfeit a sum not exceeding twenty-five dollars, to the treasurer of the city or town or shall be imprisoned not exceeding thirty days.

SEC. 52. If a child without sufficient excuse, shall be absent from school at six or more consecutive sessions during any term, he shall be deemed an habitual truant, and the superintending school committee shall notify him and any person under whose control he may be that unless he conforms to section forty-nine, the provisions of the two following sections will be enforced against them; and if thereafter such child continues irregular in attendance, the truant officers or any of them shall, when so directed by the school committee or superintendent in writing, enforce said provisions by complaint,

SEC. 53. Any person having control of a child, who is an habitual truant, as defined in the foregoing section and being in any way responsible for such truancy, and any person who induces a child to absent himself from school or harbors or conceals such child when he is absent shall forfeit not exceeding twenty dollars, for the use of the public schools of the city or town in which such child resides, to be recovered by the truant officer on complaint, or shall be imprisoned not exceeding thirty days.

PENALTY FOR DISTURBING SCHOOLS

SEC. 118 Whoever, whether a scholar or not, enters any schoolhouse or other place of instruction, during or out of school hours, while the teacher or any pupil is present, and wilfully interrupts or disturbs the teacher or pupils by loud speaking, rude or indecent behavior, signs or gestures, or wilfully interrupts a school by prowling about the building, making noises, throwing missiles at the schoolhouse, or in any way disturbing the school, forfeits not less than two, nor more than twenty dollars, to be recovered as aforesaid, or on complaint.

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