

1885

Annual Report of the Several Town Officers of the Town of Waterborough for the Municipal Year 1884-5, Commencing Mar. 1 1884, and Ending Feb. 28, 1885

Waterborough (Me.). Municipal Officials

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SEVERAL TOWN OFFICERS
OF THE
TOWN OF WATERBOROUGH
FOR THE
MUNICIPAL YEAR 1884-5,

COMMENCING MAR. 1, 1885, AND ENDING FEB. 28, 1885.

BIDDEFORD, ME. :
FROM THE PRESS OF THE MAINE SENTINEL,
1885.

ANNUAL REPORT

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SEVERAL TOWN OFFICERS

OF THE

TOWN OF WATERBOROUGH.

FOR THE

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FROM THE PRESS OF THE MAINE SENTINEL,

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TOWN OFFICERS FOR 1884.

Town Clerk.

WALTER J. DOWNS.

Selectmen, Assessors, and Overseers of The Poor.

NATHAN CLOUGH,
ALBERT H. ROBERTS,
N. W. CARPENTER.

Treasurer.

JERE. B. SCRIBNER.

Town Agent.

EDWIN B. HANSON.

Supervisor of Schools.

WALTER J. DOWNS.

Auditor.

GEORGE P. CHASE.

Collector and Constable.

JOSEPH M. HARPER.

Agent on the Town Farm.

DARLIN P. KNIGHT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN, ASSESSORS,

—AND—

OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

We, the undersigned, Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor, herewith submit our annual report for the municipal year beginning March 1st, 1884, and ending February 28th, 1885.

VALUATION OF THE TOWN FOR THE YEAR 1884.

Resident Real Estate,	\$142,829 00	
Non-resident Real Estate,	39,662 00	
	<hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>	
Total Real Estate,		\$182,491 00
Resident Personal Estate,	\$24,538 00	
Non-resident Personal Estate.	738 00	
	<hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>	
Total Personal Estate.		\$25,276 00
		<hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>
Total value of Estates.		\$207,767 00
No. of Polls, 334 ; at \$2.00	\$668 00	
Tax cast at .033		

APPROPRIATIONS.

State tax,	\$1,498 35	
County tax,	364 28	
Town schools,	1,185 60	
Support of poor,	600 00	
Incidental Expenses,	600 00	
Town Bonds,	2,000 00	
Interest on Bonds,	1,080 00	
Overlay,	196 08	
Highway Tax returned	189 28	
	<hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>	
Total Appropriations,		\$7,713 59

668 00
7,040 59

DISBURSEMENTS.

Whole number of orders drawn 13. Amt. \$6.755 88

Order No. 1. Abatement of taxes to J. M. Harper, Collector for 1883.

John Baker, Highway tax,	\$ 69	
Orrin Brown,	2 00	Away.
Alonzo Carpenter,	1 90	Error
Charity Clark,	7 00	Poor.
Aaron Cotton,	2 70	Poor.
Ivory Earl,	2 00	Over 70
Charles Harmon,	2 00	Error.
John H. Holmes,	2 00	Away.
Isaac Hill,	62	Highway tax.
Wm. B. Johnson,	2 00	Away.
Geo. B. Jellerson,	2 00	Away.
Charles G. McKenney,	3 22	Away.
Portland & Rochester R. R. Co.,	2 25	Highway.
John H. Sinclair,	2 00	Away.
John Thing,	2 00	Over 70.
Wm. Taylor,	1 75	Poor.
Geo. Boothby,	2 00	Away.
Emerson Lang,	1 23	Poor.
Franklin G. Pitts,	2 68	Error.
Isaac S. Pitts,	1 25	Error.
Olive Files,	7 00	Error.
B. F. Gowen,	3 68	Error.
Stillman Maddox,	2 00	Error.
	<hr/>	
	\$55 97	

Order No. 2—ABATEMENTS TO JERE B. SCRIBNER,

Treasurer, on taxes for 1877 9 '80-1-2-3 :

Cyrus E. Brown, taxes of 1880-1-2-3,	\$3 32
Andrews & Co., tax of 1883,	1 05
Heirs of D. S. Chadbourne, tax 1883,	1 40
Benj. Leavitt, highway tax, 1883,	7 50
John Chick, poll tax 1883,	2 00

David Kimball, personal property, 1883,	\$1 98
A. E. Hamilton, tax 1879,	8 06
Mary J. Ilsley, taxes of 1881--82,	4 06
Jere M. Mason, or owner, on tax 1882,	7 20
Wm. J. Copeland, tax of 1882.	2 80
Lewis J. Chadbourne, tax of 1882,	1 08
Lewis J. Chadbourne, tax of 1881,	60
John C. Durgin, taxes of 1881--2,	19 00
Joshua C. Batchelder, on taxes of 1877-79-80-82-83,	74 17
	<hr/>
	\$133 88

Order No. 3—TOWN BONDS AND INTEREST.

June, 1st, 1884,	
Saco National Bank for town Bonds,	\$2.000 00
Interest to June 1st, 1884,	600 00
Interest to Dec. 1st, 1884,	540 00
	<hr/>
	\$3.140 00

Order No. 4—EXPENSES OF POOR OFF TOWN FARM,

bills prior to March 1st, 1884,	
John F. Lord, funeral services at burial of Ann Bradeen and Ann Dearborn, 1883,	\$4 00
Dr. S. O. Clark, medical attendance on Ann Deaborn, 1883,	10 50
J. H. Chase, supplies for T. Webster, 1883,	5 50
J. H. Chase, morphine for Ann Bradeen, 1883,	8 45
A. K. P. Davis, burial outfit for Ann Dearborn, 1883,	14 00
J. C. Hayes, digging grave and furnishing box for Ann Dearborn, 1883,	3 25
Nath'l Knight, digging grave for Silas Brown, 1883,	2 00
Dennis Johnson, box for Ann Bradeen at burial, 1883,	1 25
Curtis S. Carll, school books for Poor, 1883,	12 85
	<hr/>
	\$61 80

Order No. 5—EXPENSE OF POOR ON TOWN FARM,

bills prior to March 1st, 1884 :

James M. Chadbourne, sawing, 1883,	\$6 64
Dr. E. F. Severance, medical attendance, 1883,	5 00
L. A. Wentworth, smith work, 1883,	3 20
J. H. Chase, goods furnished Town Farm from Oct. 1st, 1883, to April 1st, 1884,	107 19
Darlin P. Knight, services as Agent on farm from Oct. 1st, 1883, to April 1st, 1884,	100 00
Darlin P. Knight, interest on above bill,	50
	<hr/>
	\$222 53

Order No. 6—EXPENSE OF POOR ON FARM FOR 1884.

Nathan Cluff, for oxen,	\$125 00
H. H. Chadbourne, for calf,	1 50
Darlin P. Knight, services, as agent from April 1st, to Oct. 1st, 1884,	100 00
Hiram Guptill, making cider,	1 40
Alvah Thing, building wall,	2 00
John F. Lord, services at funeral of Mr. Hill,	2 00
A. K. P. Davis, burial outfit for Mrs. Hill,	13 00
L. A. Wentworth, smith work,	6 92
J. H. Chase, goods to Town Farm, from April 1st to Oct. 1st,	131 77
	<hr/>
	\$383 59

Order No. 7.—ROADS AND BRIDGES FOR 1884.

L. A. Wentworth, building bridge,	\$4 00
J. H. Woodard, labor in Dist. No. 50, 1883,	1 50
Stephen Chick, treading snow, 4 hours, 1883,	60
Hobbs & Raymond, plank, 1883,	3 53
James Mills, 620 feet plank, 1883,	6 20
Joseph Chase, labor on Edgcomb bridge,	2 00
Jere. B. Scribner, labor on bridge,	4 00
Lewis Thing, material and labor on bridges,	15 52

Nathaniel Gile, labor on highway, 1883,	\$6 50
James Mills, bridge plank,	1 70
David M. Brock, labor on highway, 1883,	1 47
John F. Sanborn, labor on highway, 1883,	1 04
Seth S. Carll, labor on highway, 1883,	13 00
C. W. Smith, labor on highway, 1883,	12 00
James M. Chadbourne, plank, 1884,	20 43
Charles Carpenter, labor on bridges, 1884,	9 50
Edwin G. Durgin, labor on highway, 1883,	6 00
	<hr/>
	\$108 99

Order No. 8.—INCIDENTAL EXPENSES FOR 1884.

George P. Chase, guide boards and post, 1883,	\$3 00
H. E. Carpenter, filling up scale hole at Ossipee Mills, 1883,	2 00
Frank Welch, guide-board post, 1883,	1 00
H. L. Strout, guide-boards, 1883,	18 00
W. A. Nutter, wood for Town house, 1883,	1 00
Loring, Short & Harmon, surveyor books, 1884,	4 50
C. H. Prescott, printing Town reports, 1883,	20 46
McLellan, Mosher & Co., two valuation books,	3 25
J. B. Scribner, postage,	31
J. M. Leavitt, recording three deeds,	1 50
Limerick Bank, interest on hired money,	3 10
Tenney & Leighton, and Kendall & Whitney, for measures and expense of getting,	7 00
John Hanscom, advertising taxes of 1883,	20 00
Hoyt, Fogg & Donham, valuation book,	5 65
Loring, Short & Harmon, stationery,	60
J. H. Chase, glass, putty &c., to repair Town house '84,	3 44
J. B. Scribner, collecting non-resident taxes and for stationery,	17 00
Ruel Ricker, on order No. 3, dated Feb. 24, '83,	260 00
E. R. Bryant, lettering guide boards,	2 00
Limerick Bank, interest on money,	45 00
J. M. Harper, collecting taxes, 1883,	153 00

F. M. Higgins, legal advice,	\$1 00
N. W. Carpenter, stationery and postage,	1 25
J. M. Harper, books and posting warrants,	8 00
N. Cluff, stationery and express on books,	1 50
	<hr/> \$583 56

Order No. 9. SCHOOL BILLS PAID.
as per Treasurer's Record, 1884.

Dist. No. 1, John Baker, Agent,	\$79 00
" " 3, George H. Emery, "	105 15
" " 4, Charles Thing "	105 10
" " 5, W. E. Storer, "	51 36
" " 6, Almon Walker, "	143 50
" " 7, Philip Brown, "	170 01
" " 8, J. M. Harper, "	45 75
" " 9, Henry F. Carll, "	175 06
" " 10, A. H. Roberts, "	374 52
" " 12, Nath'l Goodwin, "	222 65
" " 14, H. E. Carpenter, "	81 50
" " 15, Ivory Earl, "	54 88
" " 16 John H. Chase, "	174 71
Bradford Scribner, paid C. W. Carpenter in Hollis,	8 60
	<hr/> \$1,791 79

Order No. 10.—ABATEMENTS TO W. J. DOWNS

On taxes of 1882, error,	\$6 52
On taxes of 1883,	8 40
	<hr/> \$14 92

Order No. 11—Nathan Clough, services as Selectman.
Assessor, and Overseer of Poor, to Feb. 20,

Albert H. Roberts, do.,	\$50 25
N. W. Carpenter, do.,	45 00
Walter J. Downs, services as Supervisor,	55 00
Jere B. Scribner, services as Treasurer,	50 00
	40 00
	<hr/> \$240 25

Order No. 12,—EXP. OF POOR ON TOWN FARM, 1884.
Hamilton Guptill, goods to George Jellerson, \$5 94

Order No. 13,—ABATEMENT TO J. B. SCRIBNER,

Treasurer, on taxes of 1883 :

Littlefield & Co., tax of 1883,	\$2 13
Littlefield Bros., tax of 1883,	10 53
	<hr/>
	\$12 66

RECAPITULATION.

Support of Poor,	\$673 86
Repairs of roads & bridges,	108 99
Abatements,	217 43
Town Bonds and interest,	3.140 00
Support of town schools,	1.791 79
Miscellaneous,	823 81
	<hr/>
	\$6.755 88

TOWN FARM, MARCH 1st, 1885.

40 bushels potatoes, 175 lbs. pork, 15 lbs. lard, 60 gallons vinegar, 12 bushels corn, 30 lbs. dried apples, 7 bushels beans, 10 bushels oats, 2 tons hay, 26 hens, 2 hogs, 1 pr. oxen, 3 cows, 2 heifers, two years old.

Number of inmates, 4—viz: Thomas Webster, Noah Deshon, Mary Hoyt, Mrs. Silas Brown.

Produce sold off Town Farm in exchange for goods to
Feb. 21st, 1885, \$58 86

Grain furnished Town Farm by J. H. Chase. from April
1st, '84, to Feb. 21st, 1885, included in store account,
\$51 56

NATHAN CLOUGH,	} Selectmen,	
ALBERT H. ROBERTS,		} Assessors and
N. W. CARPENTER,		} Overseers of the Poor.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

RECEIPTS.

Resources in treasury, Mar. 1, 1884,	\$5,280 96	
Total receipts for the year ending Mar. 1st, 1885,	6,736 57	
	\$12,017 53	

DISBURSEMENTS.

Total am't Town orders paid,	\$6,755 88	
Resources in treasury, Mar. 1st, '85,	5,261 65	
	\$12,017 53	

DR.

To resources in treasury, Mar. 1st, '84,	\$5,280 96	
Received commitment of taxes to J. M. Harper, Collector for 1884,	5,850 96	
Received State school fund, 1884,	624 81	
Received of Overseers of Poor for oxen sold on Town farm,	150 00	
Received of Overseers of Poor, for cow sold on Town farm,	40 00	
Received of Alice Phalen, to pay funeral expenses of Ann Bradeen,	29 20	
Received of Overseers difference between oxen,	30 00	
Received of N. W. Carpenter, pasturing,	5 00	
Received of N. W. Carpenter, for rent of Silas Brown place,	5 00	
Received R. R. and Telegraph tax from State Treasurer,	1 60	
	\$12,017 53	

CR.

By paid Town orders of 1884,	\$6,755 88	
Resources in treasury, Mar. 1 '85:		
By due from J. M. Harper, Collector,	3,491 96	
I. N. Deering, Collector School Dist. No. 3, 1879,	15 44	
Amount carried forward,	\$10,263 28	

Amount brought forward,		\$10,263 28
State School Fund, 1884,	\$624 81	
On tax deeds and taxes on same,	326 61	
On Non-resident taxes,	264 41	
Railroad and Telegraph tax,	1 60	
Cash to balance,	536 82	
		<u>\$1,754 25</u>
		\$12,017 53

Amount of bonded debt of Town after paying appropriations of 1884,	\$16,000 00
Amount of outstanding Town Orders,	\$240 00

JERE. B. SCRIBNER, Treasurer.

WATERBOROUGH, March 1, 1885.

ACCT. WITH THE SEVERAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1885.

No. of District.	Amount due Dis. Mar. 1, 1884.	Am't Appropriated for 1884.	Am't paid Dist. 1884.	Bal. Due District Mar. 1, 1885.
No. 1.	\$49 46	\$209 46	\$79 00	\$179 92
" 3.	24 27	109 60	105 15	28 72
" 4.	4 85	109 60	105 10	9 35
" 5.	40 56	76 60	101 36	15 80
" 6.	91 19	93 10	143 50	40 79
" 7.	188 25	166 41	170 01	184 65
" 8.	76 75	72 30	48 75	100 30
" 9.	34 19	164 51	181 81	19 89
" 11.	197 56	267 68	374 52	90 72
" 12.	51 62	154 80	215 90	Overdr'n 8 48
" 14.	16 36	85 20	81 50	20 06
" 15.	67 50	68 00	54 88	80 62
" 16.	99 18	134 00	174 71	58 57
Bradford Scribner.		8 60	8 60	
	<u>\$941 74</u>	<u>\$1,719 83</u>	<u>\$1,844 79</u>	<u>\$829 29</u>

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have examined the above account and find it correct.

GEO. P. CHASE, Auditor.

REPORT OF THE
SUPERVISOR of SCHOOLS,
OF WATERBOROUGH.

DISTRICT No. 1, JOHN BAKER, Agent.

Two terms of school have been taught in this district, instead of three, as has been the custom for the last few years. The Summer term was taught by Miss Una G. Roberts of Waterborough. I visited the school at its commencement and received notice of the day it would close, on which day it was desired by the teacher that I should visit it for final examination. But Miss Roberts being sick the day before, I supposed the school would close one day later; and did not learn till the school was closed, that she procured the services of one of the scholars to take her place as teacher while sick, and thereby was able to close on the day first designed. For the above reason, I was unable to learn by personal examination the actual progress made by the school, but from the impression I got on my first visit, and from other sources, I think I am justified in saying that the school was a success. Miss Roberts is a graduate of our State Normal School, and has had good experience, having taught nine schools before and is well qualified for the position. She exhibited a degree of energy and enthusiasm in the work seldom witnessed in a teacher. She spared no effort possible on her part, to secure the greatest advancement of her pupils. If there was any fault to be found with her, it might be in that she was too ambitious in their behalf for which fault I should extend to her free pardon. The Winter term was taught by Mr. Alfred M. Mann of Shapleigh. Visited

the school at commencement and at close. The term was fourteen weeks, being thought best by a portion of the parents in the district, especially the agent, to have no fall term, and thereby have longer winter term. This gave ample time for a good advancement in the school, which time was improved by both scholars and teacher. Nevertheless, I think it would have given more universal satisfaction to have had three terms. Several scholars were obliged to stay at home on account of sickness and bad traveling, but those that did attend regularly, made good progress. There was great interest taken, and proficiency made in several of the higher branches, especially in Physiology and Philosophy; the pupils in these studies being able, almost without exception, to recite sections on the various topics treated on, from one end of the text book to the other, disconnectedly. The order and interest throughout the school were good, and there seemed to be that mutually good feeling between teacher and scholars, reciprocally, which is so essential to success in a school,

DISTRICT No. 3, GEORGE H. EMERY, Agent.

Two terms of school have been taught in this district. The Summer term taught by Miss Cora B. Smith of this town, was nine weeks long. The school though small in numbers, in some other respects is quite important. In giving you a description of the condition of this school, I cannot do better than quote the remarks of Miss Smith, made in her register. They are as follows: "On opening this school, I was much surprised at the scholarship of several of the pupils. There is one pupil, at least, who has no superior in town, and several more worthy of mention. Those pupils who were interested in the school, made a rapid advancement. I am sorry to say that writing is a branch of study very much neglected in this school, as well as nearly all others. I urged the scholars repeatedly to obtain writing books, but they seemed to have no interest whatever." This latter fact I shall comment upon in my general remarks, as well as some other neglects. From the above it may be discerned that Miss Smith knows what is re-

quired in schools, and is anxious to do her duty in this direction. She has taught five schools, and is one of those young ladies who profit by experience. The winter term was taught by Mrs. Lillie A. Abbott of Waterboro. She has had quite an experience as a teacher and is well versed in the requirements of a school, and tries to promote the interest of her scholars. The advancement made during this term together with that of the summer school, making nineteen weeks in all, was satisfactory and I think met with the approbation of all concerned.

DISTRICT NO. 4, CHARLES THING, Agent,

Two terms were taught in this district. The Summer term by Miss Nista Pike of Shapleigh, and the Winter term by Mr. Rufus H. Allen, of Limerick. Miss Pike is a lady of limited experience, having taught but one school and that being four or five years ago, yet she was very well qualified to teach, and seemed to strive for the welfare of her school. Was unable to visit the school at its close but I think the school gave satisfaction.

Mr. Allen is an old teacher. He strives to make thorough work with his pupils, and that they may get practical ideas of their studies; and the scholars, taking cognizance of this disposition on his part, strove to profit under his direction as much as possible, for, not only was there great interest during the school hours, but the scholars gathered with their teacher at different houses, and devoted the most of the evenings to study. On the whole, the school was a complete success.

DISTRICT NO. 5, WILLIS E. STORER, Agent.

Miss Katie M. Stone, who taught two terms in this district last year, was secured to teach two terms this year, and the fact speaks for her as a teacher. I visited both schools, found things in good order, and good progress being made. The school, though small in numbers, contains some remarkably smart scholars according to their age.

DISTRICT NO. 6, ALMON WALKER, Agent.

This district has had two terms of school, both having been taught by Miss Lillian Libby, of this town. Miss Libby works

hard for the advancement of her scholars. She is a thorough scholar herself, and a good disciplinarian, and her qualifications as a teacher well fit her to teach in larger schools. She has that peculiar power of command possessed by so few females, and yet which is so essential to teachers, in order that they may enforce certain rules and regulations which are so necessary to insure good order, without which it is impossible to make a complete success of a school. There are some excellent scholars in this school and they made good progress in their several studies, good order being preserved throughout the term, and a high degree of interest manifested on part of both teacher and scholars.

DISTRICT No. 7, HORACE H. CHADBOURNE, Agent.

The Winter term, now being taught by Mr. John E. Lord, of Waterborough, will, I have no doubt, be a grand success, as I have only to inform you of the name of the teacher, to assure you of the fact. The Summer term was taught by Miss Cora L. Brackett, of Limington, and the fact that she was secured the second time to teach the same school, almost vouches for a good school, and by personal observation, I am able to confirm the natural inference that would otherwise be drawn from the above fact.

DISTRICT No. 9. HENRY CARLL, Agent.

There has been three terms in this district. The Summer and Fall terms were taught by Miss Maggie B. Eaton of Buxton. She is a graduate of the State Normal School, and well posted in the modern arts of teaching. She does excellent work and gives general satisfaction. The school is quite large in numbers, but composed largely of small sized scholars, thus rendering it difficult for any teacher to keep first rate order. This school bids fair to rank among our best.

Mr. Frank M. Bennett taught the Winter term. Mr. Bennett taught the Winter term. Mr Bennett needs no comments from me. He has taught forty-two terms of school before this, and has become thoroughly acquainted with the principles of teaching, and understands the nature and requirements of scholars, both great and small. He has that peculiar faculty of explaining

principles to scholars in a clear and perceptible manner, thus leading the pupil out of darkness into light and fitting him the better to solve the next question. The school made good progress under his instructions.

DISTRICT No. 10, ALBERT H. ROBERTS, Agent.

The Summer term was taught by Miss Belle Conant of Shapleigh. She is a graduate of the Maine State Normal School. She is well qualified to instruct youth in any of our schools. She has had ample experience. She is possessed of very attractive qualities, and at once gains the good will and respect of the pupils. She is thoroughly acquainted with the most modern disciplinary methods, and has a wonderful faculty of applying them effectually in the school room. Remarkably good order was maintained during the entire term, especially when we take into the account the great proportion of small children, and that it is the largest school in town. The whole number in attendance was fifty-one, the average attendance forty-two, and would have been still better, but for two or three truant boys, who gave great annoyance to both teacher and scholars. But by the efforts of the teacher, together with the legal authority brought to bear upon them by our truant officer, Joseph A. Hobbs, they were compelled to return to school and keep the peace. The school was a grand success, and reflects great credit to the teacher and scholars as well.

The Fall term was taught by Miss Susan F. Hayes of Limerick, The whole number in attendance was fifty-six, average number forty-eight. Miss Hayes is an old teacher, having taught forty-six schools, and needs no praise from me; for her works make her known to most of you. It is enough to say that she took the school where Miss Conant left it, and led the scholars onward in the paths of knowledge. at a good rate of progress.

Mr. George H. Day of Lyman, taught the Winter term. Whole number in attendance fifty-two, average attendance forty. The teacher tried hard for the advancement of the school, and he is a teacher of experience, and knows how to labor advantageously in a school room. The scholars manifested a good degree of inter-

est in their studies. Marked progress was made in some of the classes in arithmetic and in geography; considerable attention was paid to map drawing, and the maps drawn were very creditable to the pupils. The advanced class in grammar devoted most of their time to the work of written analysis. Several difficult pieces were diagramed, and the results were very satisfactory. Again I have to lament the condition of writing, as there were only two or three writing books in the school and a corresponding interest in this branch. Good work was done in other branches.

DISTRICT No. 12. W. C. GOODWIN, Agent.

The Summer term was taught by Mrs. Lillie Abbott, and the Winter term by Mr. F. H. Hobbs of Waterborough. Enough has been said as to the abilities of Mrs. Abbott, and I might in justice to Mr. Hobbs, repeat the same in regard to him, as he is a thorough student and an exemplary teacher. Both gave good satisfaction, and the school did good work under their tuition.

DISTRICT No. 14, HERBERT CARPENTER, Agent.

Two schools have been taught in this district; Miss Maud Johnson of Waterborough having taught both. This was her first attempt at teaching, but she did very good work in school and gave good satisfaction. The school is very small, so much so, that I should think it would be dull work to teach it; especially for a teacher just beginning, who would not be supposed to know how to take the advantage of time; for I have visited the school three or four times and found only two or three scholars there. The average attendance is about 4 for both terms. I shall speak later of the propriety of correcting this state of affairs.

DISTRICT No. 15, IVORY EARL, Agent.

There has been but one term in this district, which was taught by Mr. Crawford of Limington. He has never taught before, but I am satisfied that he is master of his business in the school room. This school is not so large in numbers as some in town, but it ranks among the first in point of advancement; most of the higher branches being taken up and great interest manifested generally.

DISTRICT No. 16, JOHN CHASE, Agent.

The Summer term was taught by Miss Hattie E. Shaw of Limerick. She is an earnest worker in the school room, and the school, which contains some very good scholars, made good improvement.

The Winter term was taught by Mr. Burbank of Parsonsfield. This is his first teaching, but, from what I learned by examination on visiting the school, he is well fitted and adapted to the work.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The schools as a whole have given general satisfaction. There has been very efficient work done throughout, and a good degree of earnestness has been shown on the part of both teachers and scholars. Three of the teachers have been graduates of our State Normal School. Only three of them have not had previous experience, and two of these have attended high school, and made the art of teaching a specialty. There has been some neglect in certain branches, especially in writing and grammar. The importance of these two branches is not appreciated as it should be, and many scholars fail to see wherein either is going to be of much good to them in earning a livelihood. The mind is a power and its work is done, or, in other words, it manifests itself through the medium of the voice, in the form of language. Now, no work is so well done as when properly done, and no thought, is so impressive, nor will have so powerful an effect as when properly expressed. Certainly there is no acquirement more desirable than that of writing, especially when we attempt to express our thoughts in this way, in the business and social relations of life. In one of our schools, I found a scholar who could recite his text book on grammar excellently well, but even he, when asked what good he thought it would do him, could not tell, and seemed quite dissatisfied, in that he had spent so much time on a study and yet could not see the practical good it might be to him. I reasoned some with him on this point, and made a few practical applica-

tions of the principles he had learned, when he began to see how he might apply it to his advantage, and, indeed, to his gratification, in his conversation, in the various relations of life.

From the above we may infer that our text books on grammar either do not make the subject plain, or else the methods of teaching are not what they should be. Very likely there may be a little fault in both directions; at any rate, my labors with the pupil referred to above, together with some suggestions made to the teacher, produced highly satisfactory results, for on visiting the school again at its close, this scholar was much delighted with grammar, and said he could see what it amounted to, he having made good improvement in the study during the term. I would advise teachers to take more pains in awakening an interest in these very important branches.

In regard to arithmetic: There is some dissatisfaction expressed in the schools, in relation to Harper's series; some preferring Greenleaf's, but I suggested in the Summer schools, that, as we had adopted Harper's, they would do well to make it the general text book, but on visiting the Winter terms, I noticed a few still persisting in using Greenleaf's; and rather than disturb the classes, after they had got started in them, I did not throw them out, which would have been my duty. But if I were to have the schools in charge the coming year, I shall instruct all teachers at the commencement to allow none but Harper's to be used; and would advise my successor to do the same, also to make writing compulsory in all of the schools. I may here say, that I have adopted Porter and Coates' system of writing which I think will meet with general approval. They will be kept for sale at the stores in town, and are somewhat cheaper than those used heretofore.

I agree with my predecessor in relation to consolidation of certain school districts with larger ones, thereby enabling the children in these districts to enjoy the advantages of larger and longer schools. Our principle in such matters should be to secure the greatest good to the greatest number, at the least possible expense compatible with the results to be obtained. Certain-

ly the principle is not carried out in the present condition of our schools. This affair should be so adjusted that a certain amount of money should bring, as nearly as possible, the same remuneration when expended in one part of the town that it does in another; and the changes suggested would tend to accomplish this result and secure more equal educational advantages throughout the town. I trust that this matter will be adjusted so as to be a mutual benefit to all concerned. The standard of education in this town compares favorably with that of other towns of the same size; and I hope that the present standard will be maintained, and that it may become elevated yearly, to correspond with the progress of education in our great and enterprising nation; for we recognize that the development of our institutions and the advancement of civilization in our beloved country, depends on the elevation of the standard of education.

Thanking both teachers and scholars, as well as my fellow townsmen, for the kind indulgence, the earnest cooperation and hearty support you have given me during the past year, I remain,

Yours truly,

WALTER J. DOWNS,

Supervisor of Schools.

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