

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

Maine Town Documents

Maine Government Documents

1879

Annual Report of the Selectmen and School Supervisor, of the Town of Dexter, for the Year Ending March 1, 1879

Dexter, (Me.)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/towndocs>

Repository Citation

Dexter, (Me.), "Annual Report of the Selectmen and School Supervisor, of the Town of Dexter, for the Year Ending March 1, 1879" (1879). *Maine Town Documents*. 8515.

<https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/towndocs/8515>

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Town Documents by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —

SELECTMEN

— AND —

SCHOOL SUPERVISOR,

— OF THE —

TOWN OF DEXTER,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1879.



DEXTER:
ROBBINS & HERRING, STEAM JOB PRINTERS,
1879.



ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —

SELECTMEN

— AND —

SCHOOL SUPERVISOR,

— OF THE —

TOWN OF DEXTER,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1879.

DEXTER:
ROBBINS & HERRING, STEAM JOB PRINTERS,
1879.



Report of the Selectmen.

HIGHWAYS.

By whom expended.	Summer.	Winter.
J. H. Cobb.....	\$113 57	\$16 74
Darius Sampson	56 53	35 67
A. T. Robinson	129 01	10 35
L. M. Haseltine	53 34	25 76
H. B. Crowell.....	90 54	29 82
J. C. Crowell	84 06	61 55
C. M. Pullen.....	9 25	36 80
John Brown.....	46 78	31 54
E. D. Jumper	42 36	57 41
Richard Nutter.....	53 49	73 76
Wm. Oliver	23 99	58 56
John Martin.....	63 45	45 94
L. D. Packard	13 30	24 05
J. N. Watson.....	82 18	78 36
S. F. Wheeler.....	16 49	36 09
G. E. Watson.....	72 46	24 91
E. W. Eaton.....	27 62	45 72
James Leighton.....	44 37	55 62
Bailey French.....	6 61	36 11
Charles Parkman.....	2 75	17 49
Frank Wheeler.....	64 88	37 90
John M. Farrar	24 45	41 00
Oliver Lane.....	35 50	
B. F. Dunham	32 50	19 10
A. B. Fogg.....	40 75	28 32
Luther Young	103 69	36 48
C. S. Drew.....	130 04	49 34
A. S. Farrar	38 46	63 46
Wm. R. Arno	12 43	35 56
John Kittredge.....	14 35	
J. C. Trickey.....	7 03	20 49
G. D. Blake	39 42	24 74
M. M. Hersey.....	29 82	9 49
H. W. Randall.....	15 93	32 52
Andrew Brawn		24 73
H. I. Safford	55 65	
C. W. Farrar	3 12	20 43
Selectmen	1491 23	81 88
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$3171 40	\$1327 69

SUPPORT OF THE POOR.

G. B. Clough, medical attendance.....		\$75 00
Jenkins & Hill, support of A. S. Bolton.....		8 34
C. P. McCrillis, do do		16 50
Eaton & Sawyer, do do		6 50
W. D. Eaton, do do		30 00
W. H. Durgin, do do		6 50
N. F. Roberts, do do		3 75
L. D. Hayes, do Wm. Brawn		32 00
Jenkins & Hill, do do		9 00
Dr. S. Mudgett, med, att. do		9 00
W. H. Durgin, support of do		7 00
E. M. Tibbetts, for coffins,		16 00
Bridgham & Son, support of Augusta White		30 80
Jenkins & Hill, do John Grolio		9 00
J. W. Leighton & Son do do		2 00
Jenkins & Hill, do S. Tapley.....		6 27
do do Mrs. Sophia Ellis		1 50
John Hamilton, do George Parshley		5 00
do do Charles Ronco.....		9 00
A. F. Macomber, do Orin Moody		8 85
Henry S. Moody, do do		3 00
John Hamilton, do do		2 50
Medical attendance, do do		2 00
Sam'l Murphy, do do		6 00
Horace Jennings, do Freeman Emery.....		1 50
Sam'l Murphy, do do		32 45
J. W. Leighton & Son, do Mrs. R. H. Lane		6 00
N. F. Roberts, do do		2 25
W. H. Durgin, do H. S. Nickerson		7 00
Jenkins & Hill, do Mrs. Joseph Dyer		2 00
J. W. Leighton & Son, do do		2 00
C. P. McCrillis, do do		34 75
Eaton & Sawyer, do do		34 50
E. A. Ayer, do Emma F. Wyman.....		3 50
B. F. Eldridge, do do		17 00
J. H. Brown, do Lydia Severance.....		3 50
do do Strangers.....		6 00
Town of Abbot, do Mrs. Susan D. W. Moore		49 75
L. D. Hayes, do Otis Butler		3 44
C. P. McCrillis, do do		6 00
J. W. Leighton & Son, do do		1 66
J. W. Leighton, do Dexter Estey		24 00
Eaton & Sawyer, do Wm. Crocker.....		7 85
Levi C. Morgan, do Susan and Catherine Morgan.....		34 00
Maine Insane Hospital, do Nancy Bridgham		129 89
E. M. Tibbetts, do Harriet Shurburn		8 50
Geo. Hamilton, do Susan Pulliot.....		13 00
City of Lewiston, do do		7 25
Town of Parkman, do Susan Richardson, 1877-8.....		167 94
L. D. Hayes, do Otis Ellis		5 12
Mrs. Crawford, do Simon Ellis		12 00
Jenkins & Hill, do Otis Ellis.....		3 00
do do Chas. Dexter		2 00
Dr. J. Springall, med, att. Geo. S. Dow,.....		10 00
W. H. Durgin, support of Julia A. Weymouth.....		18 85

SUPPORT OF THE POOR—CONTINUED.

Mrs. Lucy Dinsmore, do	do	.....	10 00
W. H. Durgin, do	Mrs. Bond:.....	.....	7 00
Julia A. Pease, do	Abigail Watson:.....	.....	12 00
Wm. M. Johnson, burial	W. J. Page's child:.....	.....	1 50
E. F. Copeland, cash paid out for paupers, ascertaining residences, &c.		.....	25 00
			<hr/>
			\$1017 71
Balance against town farm.....			610 28
			<hr/>
			\$1627 99

Deduct amount due and received from other towns as follows:

Received from town of Alna,	support of G. S. Dow,.....	\$10 00
do do Corinth, do	A. S. Bolton....	71 59
do do Hartland, do	Wm. Brawn....	45 00
do do Medford, do	Julia Weymouth	28 85
do do Ripley, do	Freeman Emery	33 95
do do Bingham, do	Orin Moody,...	22 35
do do Wellington, do	Abigail Watson	12 00
do do Detroit, do	Dexter Estey....	24 00
Due do Sangerville, do	Nancy Bridgham	129 89
" do St. Albans, do	Paupers.....	28 62
" do Hartland, do	Wm. Brawn....	7 00
		<hr/>
		\$413 25

Whole amount of Pauper Support for the year	\$1214 74
Appropriation,.....	\$1500 00
Balance unexpended.....	\$285 26

TOWN FARM.

Paid Sam'l Murphy and wife, for services on the farm.	\$325 00
for supplies for farm	755 73
for one yoke oxen for farm	90 00
	<hr/>
	\$1170 73
Received for stock and produce sold.....	\$515 00
" care 7 tramps.....	7 00
" from town of Bingham sup. Orin Moody.....	6 00
" do Ripley " Freeman Emery.....	32 45
	<hr/>
	\$560 45
Balance against the farm.....	610 28
Stock on hand, more than last year.....	\$ 70 00
Produce " do	151 82
One ox died on farm during the year.....	70 00
	<hr/>
	\$291 82
Actual balance against the farm, as compared with last year,	318 46

PRODUCTS OF FARM.

35 tons hay,	40 bush. table beets,
5 tons straw,	250 bush. Mangel Wurzels,
84 bush. wheat,	63 bush. turnips,
23 bush. beans,	38 bush. carrots,
1½ bush. peas,	340 bush. potatoes.
1100 lbs. pork,	

STOCK ON HAND,

Two oxen.....	\$135 00
Four cows.....	140 00
One two-year-old heifer.....	22 00
One one-year-old heifer.....	10 00
Two one-year-old steers.....	35 00
Twenty-six sheep.....	156 00
One horse.....	100 00
Four swine.....	36 00
Thirty hens.....	15 00
	<hr/>
	\$649 00

PRODUCE ON HAND.

15½ tons hay.....	\$155 00	8 bush. barley.....	\$ 7 20
2 tons straw.....	10 00	40 lbs. fish.....	1 20
20 bush Early Rose Potatoes	13 00	4 bbls. soap.....	16 00
150 " Orono ".....	75 00	134 bush. carrots and beets ...	53 60
30 lbs. butter.....	4 80	14 bush. turnips.....	4 20
45 " lard.....	4 50	120 lbs. shorts.....	1 50
250 " dried apples.....	10 00	3 bush. corn meal.....	1 95
1½ bush. seed peas.....	3 00	125 lbs. pork.....	9 37
8 bush. beans.....	12 80	30 gals. pickles.....	12 00
1 bbl. flour.....	6 50	61 bush. wheat.....	91 50
1 bbl. vinegar.....	7 50	2½ lbs. rolls.....	1 25
			<hr/>
			\$501 87

Also, 45 cords wood prepared for stoves.

Received for surplus products, sold and included in the amount of produce sold:			
From dairy—Butter.....	\$ 35 25		
Cheese.....	50 09		
Veal.....	3 00	\$88 34	
From sheep—Wool.....	34 13		
Lambs.....	31 89	66 22	
	Also, five added to the number.		
From hens—Eggs.....	20 04		
Poultry.....	16 74	36 78	
From hogs—Surplus pork sold.....		6 10	
		<hr/>	
			\$197 44

POOR AT THE FARM.

Whole number, seven, as follows:

William Sturtevant,
Lucien Jose,
David Berry,
Mrs. Ward Safford,

Mrs. S Grover,
Sewell Blake,
H. L. Blake.

James Dyer discharged April 2, 1878.

Mrs. Ellen F. Blake and child discharged Dec. 16, 1878.

Freeman Emery was admitted and remained until removed by the town of Ripley.

Orrin Moody was admitted and remained until removed by the town of Bingham.

All that has been said heretofore as to the able management of the farm, and

POOR AT THE FARM—CONTINUED.

the care of the unfortunate poor, by Mr. Sam'l Murphy and wife, we most cheerefully acquiesce in for the past year, and the town, in our opinion, would be most fortunate if their services could be secured for another year, or term of years. The farming tools have been kept in good condition and housed. Fifteen acres are ploughed and in good condition for crop the coming season, and about five and one-half acres of this is in condition to be seeded to grass. There have been some losses of stock as the foregoing report shows, but all the stock now at the farm is in fine condition and will compare favorably with any of the stock of our best farmers in town.

TOWN CHARGES.

Robbins & Herring, printing reports of 1878	\$ 40 00
do advertising non-resident taxes	4 00
do printing and advertising	13 00
F. A. Pennington, services as watchman,	28 67
Allen Merrill, abatements of 1877	202 87
do percentage for collecting	364 22
Wm. P. Thompson, care of Town Hall	70 00
S. S. Jones, lamp chimneys for Town Hall	2 49
Hiram F. Spooner, posts for cemetery	13 00
J. S. Richards, services as Supervisor	150 00
Sam'l Copeland, Exr.—J. W. Barron, services as Treasurer	30 00
do do do making deeds	50
Luther Haines, labor in old cemetery	2 50
John H. Swanton, wood for Town Hall	7 50
Delano Leighton, fencing cemetery	8 37
Frank Wheeler, cedar posts for cemetery	2 40
Wm. H. Curtis, labor in cemetery	4 37
Wm. M. Johnson, labor and materials in new cemetery	29 91
G. G. Fifield, painting and varnishing hearse	20 00
Johnson & Ayer, hardware, etc.	2 54
A. Abbott & Co., fence boards for cemetery	5 60
John Hamilton, wood for Town Hall	30 00
Cyrus Foss, lamp and repairs	6 25
Willard B. Goff, services as watchman	25 00
Reuben Taylor, damage on highway	3 80
Elias H. Witham, services as constable	10 00
John C. Patterson, laying out lots in Mount Pleasant cemetery	2 00
N. Dustin & Co., repairs on Town Hall, etc., 1877	9 74
Hiram Bassett, services as Treasurer	30 00
do paid for legal services	3 84
George Hamilton, making deeds	5 00
A. H. Knight, services as School Agent	25 00
D. K. Jenkins, manure for Town Lot, 1877	3 00
Jenkins & Hill, oil for hall, etc.	17 37
B. F. Mills, services as constable and cash paid out	13 75
Levi Bridgham, services as Town Clerk	15 00
Bridgham & Son, stationery	12 28
Hiram Carr, services as Town Agent	2 00
Josiah Crosby, legal services, including settlement of Nancy Bridgham case and Susan Richardson case	64 75
A. P. Fassett, services as watchman	3 00
Wm. P. Thompson, labor and repairs Town Hall	9 40
B. F. Eldridge, repairing slate do	1 50

TOWN CHARGES—CONTINUED.

H. L. Haskell, labor in cemetery	15 00
Abner Shepherd, error in tax	2 50
Paid Nutter and Roberts, services in referee case	5 00
B. F. Eldridge, paid highway tax, St. Albans.....	75
do postage, stationery and sundry bills	18 00
do assessing district taxes	25 00
do services as Selectman	95 00
E. F. Copeland, do	90 00
John Hamilton, do	100 00
Allen Merrill, services as constable.....	10 00
<hr/>	
Town charges, including bills of former years.....	\$1655 87
Fire Department, including extension ladder	216 17
<hr/>	
	\$1872 04
Appropriation	2000 00
Balance unexpended	127 96

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Joseph S. Smith, extension ladder.....	\$125 00
W. H. Durgin, oil for engine house	25
Fassett & Stearns, wood and sawing, engine house	8 50
J. D. Maxfield, care of force pump	10 00
B. F. Rowell, care of engine No. 2.....	15 00
Jos. C. Larrabee, do 1.....	15 00
A. P. Fassett, services as Chief Engineer ..	6 25
J. S. Campbell—estate of services as Chief Engineer.....	3 75
A. P. Fassett, repairs, etc.....	20 07
Bridgham & Son, alcohol for engine No. 3	1 25
Jones & Brewster, oil for engine house.....	40
J. H. Fitzgerald, care of Hook and Ladder carriage	10 00
Jenkins & Hill, oil for engine house..	70

TOWN HALL.

Received and paid into town treasury for hall rent.....	\$178 50
Paid J. Hamilton, wood for hall	\$30 00
J. H. Swanton, do	7 50
Jenkins & Hill, oil for hall	17 37
Wm. P. Thompson, care of hall.....	70 00
<hr/>	
Balance above expenses.....	\$53 63
Opened and used for Temperance meetings, by vote of the town,—free, 30 times..	
do Political meetings—free	14 “
Whole number of openings for actual expenses.....	16 “
do all occasions	70 “

FIRE DEPARTMENT LOAN.

Amount of Fire Department Loan March 1, 1878.....	\$979 53
Appropriation.....	600 00
<hr/>	
Balance Fire Department Loan.....	\$379 53

SUMMARY OF EXPENSES.

Highways.....	\$4499 09
Support of the Poor.....	1214 74
Town Charges, including bills of former years	1655 87
Fire Department, including extension ladder	216 17
Support of Schools	4310 09
High School.....	1075 00
	<hr/>
	\$12,970 96

LIABILITIES OF THE TOWN.

Funded Debt	\$8000 00
Ann L. Katen, April 26, 1878	300 00
Samuel Abbott, June 1, 1878	450 00
Samuel F. Marble, July 1, 1878	1500 00
Nancy M. Palmer, July 20, 1878	350 00
Mary W. Katen, April 26, 1873	300 00
Obed Foss, July 1, 1878	300 00
Alice E. Eoss, May 13, 1878	1000 00
Samuel Morrill, July 20, 1878	1300 00
Roxana Knowles, May 4, 1878	450 00
Susan B. Brann, May 31, 1878	600 00
Geo. C. Ryan, April 26, 1878	1000 00
Clara Bickford, July 8, 1878	1000 00
E. R. Sanborn, May 25, 1878	500 00
Isabel Morrill, June 4, 1878	172 00
Ella True, July 8, 1878	125 00
Olive M. Crawford, June 22, 1875	600 00
Mary F. Leighton, May 13, 1873	527 50
	<hr/>
	\$18,474 50
Due High School.....	276 83
	<hr/>
	\$18,751 33

RESOURCES.

One hundred shares Dexter & Newport R. R. stock.....	\$7000 00
Cash in treasury	1280 95
Cash in hands of collector, less percentage	3355 40
Execution against W. H. Gould, \$104.24, cash value..	15 00
Cow at Wm. Crocker's.....	20 00
Due from town schools	161 84
Due from other towns for support of paupers	198 52
	<hr/>
	\$12,031 80
Total indebtedness of the town March 1, 1878	\$6998 59
do do do 1879	6719 53
Decrease of indebtedness during the year.....	\$279 06
There has been paid during the year:	
Balance of temporary loan to Dexter Savings Bank	\$297 83
Paid for school books, for which no appropriation was made.....	534 53
Also a reduction was made in execution against W. H. Gould.....	89 24
Otherwise a still greater reduction in total of indebtedness would have been shown.	

APPROPRIATIONS RECOMMENDED.

Support of Schools.....	\$2400 00
Support of Poor.....	1000 00
Town Charges.....	2000 00
Highways.....	4000 00
Balance Fire Department Loan.....	400 00

Respectfully submitted as the financial standing of the town March 1, 1879,
and the expenditures for one year.

JOHN HAMILTON, } SELECTMEN
E. F. COPELAND, } OF
B. F. ELDRIDGE, } DEXTER.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

TOWN OF DEXTER.	IN ACCT. WITH H. BASSETT, TREAS.
Amount in treasury at commencement of year.....	\$1832 53
do in hands of collector.....	2889 32
do tax bills committed to Merrill, collector.....	12289 21
do Interest on R. R. stock.....	600 00
do do school fund.....	150 00
do loans through selectmen.....	3071 60
do State school fund.....	428 96
do State mill tax.....	806 05
do State free high school.....	500 00
do tuition do.....	56 37
do fines from school agent.....	2 25
do tuition from com. schools.....	3 00
do hall rent.....	178 00
do received from town of Hartland.....	50 00
do do Wellington.....	20 00
do do Bingham.....	22 35
do do Ripley.....	33 95
do do Unity.....	9 75
do do Medford.....	32 85
do do Detroit.....	26 00
do do Alna.....	10 00
do do Corinth.....	71 59
do circus license.....	25 00
do lots sold in cemetery.....	85 00
do grass do.....	20 00
do cost on non-resident taxes.....	3 42

\$23,217 30

DR.

To paid on orders drawn.....	\$13798 12
“ paid on town debts.....	3504 83
“ paid interest on town debt.....	365 86
“ do fund d debt.....	561 00
“ balance in hands of collector, 1877.....	350 00
“ do do 1878.....	3334 21
“ deed for non-resident tax, 1877.....	21 23
“ uncollected non-resident tax, 1877.....	1 00
“ amount in treasury.....	1280 95

\$23,217 20

HIRAM BASSETT, TREASURER.

SCHOOL AGENT'S REPORT.

Town appropriation	\$2400 00
Received from the State	1235 00
Int. on town school fund	160 00
Received for tuition	3 00
	\$3798 01
Paid to union dist. No. 1.....	\$ 54 00
teachers' salaries, including board.....	3103 75
for fuel	172 87
for building fires, etc.	70 50
for cleaning school houses and W. C.....	47 10
for school room furniture	37 30
for repairs	249 50
for printing (1877—78)	40 54
	3775 56
Balance unexpended.....	\$22 45
Amount overdrawn last year.....	\$184 31
Leaving a balance against the schools this year of.....	161 84
As the town made no appropriation at its last annual meeting for the supply of school books and material, purchases of such have been made, as needed, amounting to.....	534 53
• Of this amount more than \$150.00 was purchased before, but not paid for, until after the completion of the last year's report, leaving a balance actually expended during the year of about	585 00
Value of school books and material on hand, at Bridgham & Son's, March 1, 1879.....	320 00

A. H. KNIGHT, SCHOOL AGENT.

REPORT OF TREASURER OF TRUSTEES OF DEXTER SCHOOL FUND.

Whole amount of fund.....	\$2689 47
Invested as follows:	
Town of Dexter bonds.....	\$1900 00
do Corinna do	600 00
David McG. Jones' note	150 00
John and Hiram Morgan note.....	30 00
Cash in treasury	9 47
	\$2689 47
Interest amounting to \$150.00 has been collected and paid into the town treasury.	

GEO. HAMILTON, TREAS.

March 12, 1879.

Report of Supervisor.

TO THE CITIZENS OF DEXTER :

At the close of another school year your Supervisor would respectfully submit his report of the schools which have been under his charge.

During the past year the schools have each enjoyed three terms—a summer, fall and winter term—as last year : and in my opinion they have been generally successful and profitable. Agreeably to the provisions of law, visits—over one hundred in number—and examinations, have been faithfully made, and to a condensed summary of these investigations your attention is now solicited.

CONDITION OF THE SCHOOLS.

NO. 1. (South Ridge—school house in Corinna). Some of our scholars were in attendance, and calls were made for school books, so that your supervisor was interested to know what was being done, and visited. The school has had good instruction, and a lively interest evinced by the parents has made it very successful.

NO. 2. Under faithful teachers this school has made fair progress. There might have been a higher appreciation of school privileges, and a more earnest effort on the part of parents and scholars would have insured a better attendance and a more profitable use of school money (See statistical table). More interest—and a growing interest, I am glad to say—was manifest during all the winter term.

NO. 3. The first two terms under an inexperienced though faithful and conscientious teacher. The first term, fair progress ; the second, not that improvement which it was hoped experience would give. During the winter term marked improvement in recitations indicated that honest, hard work had been done. Let this school still take for its motto, “Not how much, but how well.”

NO. 4. Summer term very satisfactory, though as always, there was room for improvement. This was effected in the fall and winter terms; less of text book, perhaps, but more of the teacher. Arithmetic and Geography taught by topics. Rapid improvement in writing; excellent work in drawing. Progress all the year was very much impeded by sickness among the pupils.

NO. 5. A change of teachers after the summer term, as in No. 4, and for a like reason. The last two terms have been eminently successful. In drawing and penmanship, these scholars show the best work of any in town.

The parents of this district are to be commended for the lively interest they take in the prosperity of their school. Their planting a large number of shade trees around the pleasantly located house, and, on one occasion, a picnic supper there, with the scholars and teacher, indicate a healthy condition of things.

NO. 7. A new teacher each term during the year, which, of course, has not been most profitable. This is a good school—advanced scholars and diligent students. It has enjoyed capable instruction and made fair progress. Parents need to co-operate more with the teachers; forebear to criticise, aid what you can, and it will be better for your school.

NO. 8. Fortunate in retaining a most faithful and earnest teacher though the entire year. Here, too, recitations have been largely topical. Thoroughness has been made a rule, which has insured the best of improvement.

NO. 9. (Union) The three terms here have been conducted with fair success. This school, though not difficult, needs wise and skillful management. Let scholars aim to move more thoroughly, even if more slowly, in their studies.

NO. 10. One of our largest and most successful schools. The same faithful, hard-working teacher has taught all the year "to the entire satisfaction of all concerned." Your money has been profitably expended in sustaining this school, and we are the losers by the teacher resigning to enter another field in another State.

NO. 11. This school has also retained the same teacher, who has worked hard and conscientiously for its good—the first two terms giving entire satisfaction. During the winter term, in a larger and more difficult school, some large boys, (to their shame) showed a disposition to be unruly, which reflected somewhat upon the teacher's ability to govern.

NO. 12. (So. Branch) Three terms. The first under a young and inexperienced teacher, not quite up to the standard. The last two terms,

entirely satisfactory. This school, so expensive as compared with the few scholars benefited, ought to be well appreciated.

VILLAGE SCHOOLS.

PRIMARY NO. 1. This, though next to the High School, the largest in town, has been very creditably managed. Parents having little ones attending here, may rest assured that they will be kindly cared for.

PRIMARY NO. 2. Has been under the care of the same excellent teacher as during last year, and has been very successful.

PRIMARY NO. 3. Was continued one term. This school had fallen off to an attendance of eighteen, and as these could be well accommodated at No. 2, I thought best to suspend it until the number of scholars may warrant its reopening.

INTERMEDIATE NO. 1. The first two terms under the able teacher of last year, whom, since she left us, we have sadly missed. The winter term has been taught by an experienced teacher whose administration has been quite acceptable.

INTERMEDIATE NO. 2. The same instruction as during last year—a faithful, hard-working teacher who puts both labor and conscience into her work. The scholars of this school have made marked progress during the year, especially in geography, map and industrial drawing.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL. The same teacher with the same excellent success. The new course of study taxed the energies of these scholars more than any others, but being put upon their mettle, they and the teacher have performed their part in a praiseworthy manner.

HIGH SCHOOL. In no other school in town can I see the *improvement* that is manifest in this. A member of the last S. S. Com. remarked that this school had given more trouble and anxiety during his administration than all the others together. Instead of that, during the last year I think it has been the least trouble of any. I attribute this improvement to the fact that we now have a competent man in charge of it. The prevailing good order within and without the school house, and the amount of work done, are far in advance of what we saw last year. The waste of text books noticed by some during the first of this year, and very properly complained of, has been entirely done away with; more tuition has been collected; and I think it will be a saving to the town, in dollars and cents, to retain the present principal, even at an advanced rate of wages.

WRITING SCHOOL. Free writing lessons were given the scholars of Dexter during October and November, 1878. Some 150 pupils attended, costing the town \$90.00, or 50 cents per capita. Supposing

there would be in the agent's hands about the same amount to be expended as last year, and suspending the Primary School on Free street, we thought the state of finances would warrant this expenditure ; and as the result proved, though there were about \$1000 less resources, your Supervisor considers the school profitable. Teachers and scholars attended well to the work of the school, and rapid improvement was made.

SINGING. Two lessons per week in singing have been given to the Primary, Intermediate and Grammar Schools during this year as last, at an expense of \$5 per term for each school. Scholars have made good progress, the lessons and practice have been a great help in the discipline of the schools, and I think the money has been well expended.

HERE AND THERE.

DRAWING has been introduced into all the schools as a regular, general exercise. This was intended to be confined to industrial Drawing alone ; and, while no expense should be incurred for anything more, this should be given our scholars, both for the general discipline of the eye and hand, and for its special use to our future mechanics.

TEACHERS' MEETINGS. Seeing early in the year that there was a want of system and uniformity in the methods in the various schools, seriously impeding the progress in some, we held teachers' meetings fortnightly during the first two terms, at which instruction was given and questions in regard to discipline and management of scholars were discussed. These ought to be continued, which, with occasional visiting one another's schools will enable the teachers to find out the best methods used, and to labor more in concert for the general good of the schools.

WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS. Two each term are now required, the results of which are put on record. Those for advancement from grade to grade being given by supervisor will serve to bring about the uniformity spoken of above.

RECORD BOOKS. At the beginning of the year, each school was provided with a permanent record book, which is to be kept in the school from year to year, marking each scholar's progress and standing for the school officers or parents, or any who care to know, and for any new teacher who may take charge of the school.

COURSE OF STUDY. A new course of study has been compiled for the schools from the primary to the high school, and definitely defined for each grade. This was published for criticism and improvement some three weeks, and submitted to some prominent educators abroad, before finally decided upon. Though it may need

amending from time to time, I think it is as good as we can have for the present. This has been a great stimulant in the village schools during the year. Rural schools are expected to be governed by it as much as possible.

TEXT BOOKS. For these no appropriation was made by the town, but your supervisor has procured them from the contingent fund. The most rigid economy has been practiced in their purchase. No maps or other school apparatus—some of which is sadly needed in many of our schools—have been purchased during the year excepting three small globes for the lower schools. No books have been exchanged, though some new ones have been tried; and I recommend an immediate exchange of geography for a better book, for which most favorable terms can now be secured.

The plan of furnishing free text books by the town is yet discussed by some as not advisable. I think it is advisable. For this purpose the town ought to appropriate at least \$500 yearly. This would be an expense of *less than one dollar per capita* for the actual attendance on the schools, which certainly is not too much.

RECOMMENDATIONS, ESTIMATES, ETC.

FINANCES. Your Supervisor knows this is a time of great business depression, and fully recognizes the necessity of the most rigid economy in the management of the public schools; yet the work of building up and systematizing our schools, though I think, far in advance of that in neighboring towns, is but just begun, and we should do nothing to impair in any way their efficiency. I have carefully looked over the ground to see what reduction can be made in the expenses for the coming year, and find none. Let us see what has been done in the past: Last year the town raised \$2400 for support of schools, and \$500 for a Free High School, making \$2900. This is about \$3.75 per scholar. Assuming twelve years as the average time our children attend school this amounts to..... \$45 00
Books cost 90 cents per year.... 10 80
Use of school room, say 50 cents..... 6 00

Gives..... \$61 80

as the sum we expend per scholar. This is expected to fit them with sufficient education for the duties of life! Parents, are you satisfied? Are we doing for your children all we ought? What, above every thing else, would you bequeath a child? Money? Acres? No, an education. For this, then, an expenditure of \$61.80 is not extravagant.

For the present, however, I do not recommend that much more be raised; but I do not see how we can expect efficient schools with less. Some of our best teachers are seeking other fields, even now. There are *girls* enough to take their places, at one-half their wages, but we had better spend the money in peanuts for the children, than put over them such incapable teachers. Our teachers are faithful and hard working, and if they are worth anything, they deserve all they get. Let not the efficiency of our schools be crippled for lack of funds to secure capable instructors.

Therefore, since we shall be deprived of aid from the State in support of a High School, I recommend that for the ensuing year there be raised:—

For support of public schools,	\$3500 00
For text books and apparatus,	500 00

There is some leakage in the support of small schools, some of which might possibly be stopped, while some must be endured. I would recommend, however, that school No. 8 be suspended, and the scholars sent to Nos. 2 and 7.

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE. There is an act of the Legislature requiring parents and guardians to send the children under their control to the common schools a definite portion of each year. This is right; for if the State can take your money for the support of schools, it ought to see that you are protected from the ignorance of your fellow citizens. Sections 13 and 14, of school laws, provides that towns also may make such by-laws concerning truants as shall be best for the welfare and good order of society, affixing penalties and appointing persons to make complaints and carry out the provisions of the laws. There is a great waste of means in the truancy from our schools, which not a little concerns us all and should be cared for. Again, a greater leak is in the fact that so many scholars do not attend at all. Children between nine and fifteen years of age are required by law to attend school at least twelve weeks during the year. This the school officers would be glad to enforce, if they could get so much as even "thanks" for their pains. Every tax-payer should insist upon its enforcement some way—that the children of his town should improve to the best advantage the privileges furnished by his money, the representative of his time, his labor, and his business capacity.

Here let me append a statement of the attendance of scholars in our schools :

District.	Whole number in district as ret'd.	Diff't names registered.	Largest number any term.	Average attendance during year.	Number of visits by citizens.
No. 1.	11		9		
" 2.	32	25	18	10	
" 3.	31	18	14	10	10
" 4.	31	26	21	13	
" 5.	13	13	11	8	10
" 6.	484	377	330	252	249
" 7.	22	23	23	16	23
" 8.	28	13	13	8	14
" 9.	35	25	22	16	2
" 10.	42	37	30	25	12
" 11.	32	35	26	19	
" 12.	12	12	10	7	7

Thus we see there are but per cent. of our scholars having the benefit of the money expended for our schools. This ought not to be. Let parents and friends everywhere use their utmost influence to keep the children under the instruction that is provided for them; let parents, guardians, corporations, and employers, read the laws bearing upon the keeping of scholars from school, and let us have reform in this particular.

SCHOOL SUPERVISION. One word more of voluntary advice, and I close. The following extract is from a report of the State Superintendent, and I think it pertinent to our condition :

"S. S. Committee and Town Supervisor. The committee consists of three persons. The town supervisor is a single person performing all the duties of the ordinary committee. The choice of either committee or supervisor is left optional to the several town. The supervisor is elected annually, so also one of the committee. This is a decided advantage to the town when the member elect is an efficient officer,—a serious encumbrance when he fails in activity or interest. The privilege therefore to the town of selecting either a committee of three, or a town supervisor, is a desirable feature in our school inspection. When the committee fail to discharge their duties, the town can resort to the individual activity of the supervisor. If the latter should be found exercising his individual power in a manner prejudicial to the general interests, recourse can be had to the committee of three again. No fair conclusion can be drawn at present as to the comparative merits of the two officers. The committee of three divides responsibility, but insures wise counsels. The single supervisorship fixes responsibility, secures singleness of purpose and effort, but involves the possible use of arbitrary power. My own opinion has long been that the arrangement should be a committee of three with advisory and checking powers,

examining and certificating teachers, &c., while one of the three should be delegated by one of the committee with full power as inspector of the schools, receiving a fair compensation for this duty. This is virtually done in many towns at present."

With the opinion given above I heartily concur, and therefore recommend that you entrust your schools for the ensuing year to a committee of three, hoping that their united endeavors, properly directed, will prove better for the schools than has the service of one man during the past year.

This seems to me a sufficient force to care for the interest of our schools. These men, too, should know at any time just how the finances have been used for repairs, and in furnishing the school rooms with wood, etc. Therefore I recommend that the office of School Agent be abolished—no agent chosen, and the business usually done by an agent left in the hands of the Superintending School Committee.

Your supervisor also recommends that, if possible, the school year begin and close about August 1st, and that the terms of office of school officers begin and close about that time.

In closing, allow me to offer sincere thanks to the many friends who have aided during the year by their sympathy and counsel, in the cause of education, so dear to us all, and to assure them that the many errors I have made have been errors of the head rather than of the heart.

J. S. RICHARDS, SUPERVISOR.

REPORT OF ENGINEERS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Your Engineers would respectfully submit the following report for the year ending March, 1879 :

There have been no serious fires during the year. The Department has been called out five times—three times by alarms caused by burning chimnies : once by a fire at Mr. John Morrison's barn, in the South part of the town ; and once by a fire at Flanders' mills.

We sent one engine and a company of firemen to assist the citizens of Corinna village, on occasion of a fire there the past winter.

The facilities for extinguishing fires are the same as last year ; and although luckily, no serious fires have occurred, the manner in which the firemen have responded to all the alarms shows that the Department is in good condition.

Early in the year, the Department sustained a serious loss in the death of its Chief Engineer, J. Sanborn Campbell, who was an efficient worker, and much interested in its welfare.

ALTON P. FASSETT, 1ST ASST. ENGINEER.

