1878

Annual Report of the Selectmen, and Superintending School Committee of the Town of Belgrade, 1877-78.

Belgrade (Me.)

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN

AND

Superintending School Committee

OF THE

TOWN OF BELGRADE,

1877-78.

AUGUSTA:
T. F. MURPHY'S JOB PRINTING OFFICE.
1878.
SELECTMEN'S REPORT,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 21, 1878.

Paid, bills accrued prior to March 5th, 1877.
Paid G. J. Gage, services as Selectman, $79.50
   B. F. Mitchell, "     " 65.45
   C. H. Wyman, "     " 57.65
   J. C. Taylor, services as S. S. Committee, 36.25
   J. S. Cummings, "     " 34.50
   H. F. D. Wyman, "     " 27.00
   J. C. Mosher, "     " Town Clerk, 4.00
Henry Huff, one-half year's salary, 118.00
Pauline Austin, for keeping Downs girl, 25.00
Benjamin & Allen, for repair of separator, 23.39
Rent of hall, 10.00
For keeping Jewett girl, 8.16
Avery Ellis, labor on highway, 7.18
On account of Hannah Trask, 13.00
W. W. Springer, on account of Lydia Holmes, 21.25
Abatement of taxes for 1874-75-76, 155.54

Total, $680.87

Paid for the Repair of Roads and Bridges the past year, $99.33

The following bills have been paid for the support of Poor not at Poor-house the past year:

Paid on account of Charity C. Trask, 20.50
   "     " Patrick Emmons, 27.50
   "     " Robert Foss, 78.64
   "     " Wilson Hawes, 20.58
   "     " Thomas Palmer, 5.00
   "     " Nancy E. Kaherl, 10.05
   "     " Hannah Trask, 26.00
   "     " Wyer F. Hunt, 130.75
(4)

Paid on account of Charles Hunt, $3 00
" " Edwin L. Damon, 14 04
" " Downs girl, 14 55
For keeping tramps, previous to building house, 38 00
" " " at house, 6 07
L. Yeaton, for taking care of tramps, 4 00
For building and furnishing tramp house, 56 34
Portland, on account of Mrs. Prime, 6 00
On account of David Jewett's family, 7 50
W. W. Springer, on account of Melvina Downs, 1 50

Total, $469 52

Paid for the support of Poor of other towns the past year:

Paid Lexington, on account of George Skillings, $12 00
Due from Readfield, 127 57
" Lexington, 12 00

Total due, $139 57

Cost of Poor at Poor-house the past year:

Paid Eldred & Stuart, for supplies, $78 95
A. Hammond, for supplies, 63 34
C. Richardson, " 55 41
Henry Huff, on salary, 114 00
For coffin for J. Downs, 8 00
S. S. Kimball, for burying J. Downs, 3 00
For one yoke of oxen, 110 00
" pigs, 4 00
" grass seed, 5 26
" cow, 17 00
" beef, 2 75
W. W. Springer, for medical attendance, 9 50
For twenty-five cords wood, 19 25
" shingles, 15 90

Total, $506 36

Received from sale of oxen, 157 00
" " " oats, 6 25
" " H. Huff, cash, 10 00

Total, 173 25

Total cost of Poor at Poor-house, $333 11
DISTRICT No. 14.

Summer and Winter terms of eight months taught by Edna Munsey of West Waterville whose services have been appreciated by the district. Had she explored a wider field of instruction, her labors would have been more valuable to herself and the pupils. The past year has been one in which this district has wisely conducted their own affairs.

DISTRICT No. 15.

In Summer taught by Miss Laura A. Page of this town. Miss Page has taught quite a number of schools in town, and this school showed at its close that fair progress had been made.

In Winter taught by Mr. F. Blaisdell of Rome, who has had little or no experience in teaching, but has a natural tact for instructing his pupils, and with more practice will make a first-class teacher. His scholars showed they had been well drilled, especially in reading and arithmetic.

DISTRICT No. 16.

Summer term taught by Miss Marcia E. Snow, who governed her school with ease, imparted instruction in a manner comprehensible to her pupils, and gained their respect. She kept a good school.

In Winter taught by Miss Mary C. Wyman of this town. Most of the scholars of this school have been very irregular in attendance, but those who have attended through the term have made good use of the time, and the examination showed that the teacher had acted well her part.

DISTRICT No. 17.

In Summer taught by Miss Ora M. Richardson of West Waterville. This was Miss Richardson's first school, and at its commencement bid fair to be a profitable term, but on account of inexperience and a desire on her part to please all, she failed in properly governing the school.

Winter term taught by Mr. Dudley Philbrick of Sidney, who managed the school in a skilful manner, and closed with credit to himself, and the satisfaction of all concerned.

DISTRICT No. 18.

Summer term taught by Inez Cummings of this town. At the first visit we found this school moving in a very satisfactory manner. Scholars orderly and studious. At examination we found that some of the smaller scholars had made a good degree of improvement, while others had not made that advancement which we had a right to expect.

Fall term taught by Etta E. Lovejoy of Sidney, who manifested zeal and aptitude to teach. This school showed an indefinite amount of drill by answers given to the questions asked by their teacher. We think this teacher tried to adapt herself very fully to the wishes of the parents.
REMARKS.

FELLOW TOWNSMEN: We have placed before you a report of our schools as we understand them; and in the following solicit your sympathies. Parents, it is your privilege, and ought to be improved by you, to visit your scholars and learn what your schools are, and in unison with your teachers labor for them and with them. Many scholars are very different at school from what they are at home; and you ought to know personally that you may be able to labor effectively in their behalf. Parents who allow their scholars to spend their evenings in amusement, and for trivial occasions, absent themselves from school, are blind in some measure to their best interests. When lessons must be learned wholly in a school-room, and that with an irregular attendance, an interest, of necessity, must be very much impaired. When your interest is what it should be, there can be no lack, and will be none, on the part of your scholars. Our schools for the past year have been of a better grade and conducted on more methodical and practical principles, than of any year in the past, in the knowledge of your committee. Though some have not been what we would wish, yet twenty years ago our poorest ones would have been called good. It is often said by parents that “when I was a scholar, we had schools that were schools, but now they are dwarfed.” Go and you will learn this fact that much more work is performed by your teachers, and of a superior quality than in your school days. Our motto is “Progression.”

The prevailing epidemic (whatever it may be called) has been a great injury to our winter schools.

J. S. CUMMINGS, J. C. TAYLOR, J. F SPAULDING. 
S. S. Committee of Belgrade.
(5)

**MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.**

Paid for books, blanks, stationery and stamps, $9 83

" expenses to Charlotte, 26 40

" " Wayne, 1 50

" " Gardiner and Augusta, 4 00

Paid Joseph Taylor, damage on wagon, 3 00

Harrison Ellis, " plow, 2 50

For repair of fence and clearing up cemetery, 18 40

S. S. Committee, Sandford fund, 11 25

L. Yeaton, services as Constable, 16 75

Total, $93 62

Abatements for 1877, $15 00

The following sums have been received into the Treasury the past year, exclusive of loans:

Received from J. S. Cummings, Collector for 1875, $820 00

" " A. Yeaton, Collector for 1876, 4,881 90

" " Selectmen, 174 08

" " non-resident taxes for 1874-75-76, 337 57

" " B. F. Mitchell, guardian of J. Downs, 15 69

Cash in treasury March 1, 1877, 386 09

Total, $6,565 23

**RESOURCES.**

Due from J. S. Cummings, collector for 1875, $65 00

" " Andrew Yeaton, " 1876, 2,324 19

" " " 1877, 6,810 83

" " G. J. Page, guardian of P. Smith, 131 25

" " non-resident taxes for 1874-75-76-77, 72 24

" " Town of Readfield, 127 57

" " Lexington, 12 00

One separator, 75 00

Mortgage on T. Palmer's farm, 102 85

Cash in treasury March 1, 1877, 487 70

State school fund, estimated, 800 00

Inventory of stock, provisions, etc., at Town Farm, 618 60

Total resources, $11,627 23

**LIABILITIES.**

Whole amount of outstanding treasury notes, $16,101 00

" " " town orders, 108 54
Whole amount due the several school districts, $641.59
of interest due March 1, 1878, 339.00
Due J. C. Mosher, town clerk, 4.00
J. C. Taylor, S. S. Committee, 34.75
J. S. Cummings, S. S. Committee, estimated, 30.00
H. F. D. Wyman, ” “ 30.00
G. J. Page, services as Selectman, 68.00
C. H. Wyman, ” “ 68.75
G. W. Cottle, ” “ 67.00
Town of Fairfield, on account of J. Trask, estimated, 30.00
Henry Huff, on salary, 111.00
Town of Hartland, on account of T. Palmer, 24.70
West Gardiner, on account of W. F. Hunt, 47.13
For rent of Hall, 10.00
” printing reports, 18.00

Total, $17,733.46

Whole amount of liabilities, $17,733.46
“ “ resources, 11,627.23

Liabilities above resources, $6,106.23
Treasury notes bearing interest less than last year, $1,566.00

The following were the assessments for the year 1877:

State tax, $1,388.14
County tax, 792.70
Town grant, to defray town charges, 5,000.00
“ for support of schools, 1,600.00
Overlayings on same, 153.58

Total assessment, $8,934.42
Delinquent highway, 57.25

Total commitment, $8,991.67

Names of Paupers:
I. Bickford, 1 year.
S. Damren, 1 “
Dorcas Hawes, 1 “
Willie Smith, 1 “
Lydia Libby, 1 “
P. Emmons, 10 months.
J. Downs,
Ed Damren,

BELGRADE, February 21, 1878.

1 month.

GILMAN J. PAGE,
CHARLES H. WYMAN,
GEORGE W. COTTLE,

SELECTMEN
OF
BELGRADE.
TREASURER'S REPORT.

Town of Belgrade in account with L. W. BACHELDER, Treasurer for the year ending February 20, 1878.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DR.</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To paid Treasury notes,</td>
<td>$18,207.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>1,169.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town orders,</td>
<td>2,085.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School orders,</td>
<td>2,256.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For advertising non-resident taxes,</td>
<td>7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To paid damage to sheep by dogs,</td>
<td>4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book and blanks,</td>
<td>1.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer's commission,</td>
<td>40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash in Treasury</td>
<td>487.70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cr.</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By cash in Treasury, March 10, 1877,</td>
<td>$386.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received of Jos. S. Cummings, collector of taxes for 1875,</td>
<td>820.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Yeaton, &quot;&quot; 1876,</td>
<td>4,831.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Treasurer, school fund and mill tax,</td>
<td>815.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer of City of Augusta, Sanford school fund,</td>
<td>90.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash by hands of Selectmen,</td>
<td>241.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For non-resident tax for the years 1874-75-76,</td>
<td>337.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From B. F. Mitchell, guardian Jerry Downs,</td>
<td>15.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For tax on dogs,</td>
<td>81.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From different persons, and gave Treasurer notes,</td>
<td>16,641.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$24,259.24

L. W. BACHELDER, TREASURER.
REPORT OF
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

DISTRICT No. 1.

Taught by Carrie L. Rogers of this town. This school was composed of small scholars, and at our first visit we found them restless and uneasy, but by patient perseverance on the part of the teacher, the school was brought into good working order. This was Miss Rogers' first attempt at teaching, and taking into account her youth and inexperience, think she did well.

In winter taught by Manley E. Lowe of Sidney. Mr. Lowe is a teacher of experience and ability, and at the close of the school we found good advancement had been made by the larger and more advanced scholars, while the smaller ones had not received that attention which was desirable. Quite a number attended this school not belonging to the district, making an average of thirty-one, which with the introduction of some new branches of study, made it difficult for the teacher to do, as under more favorable circumstances he would have done. He has a love for the business and a manner of illustrating many of the principles taught, so as to be easily understood by his pupils.

DISTRICT No. 2.

Summer term taught by Carrie H. Eldred of this town. This school was quiet and orderly. Although this was Miss Eldred's first school, she succeeded well, and will with experience become a first-class teacher.

In winter taught by J. C. Taylor of this town. The scholars of this school for the most part were orderly and industrious, and we think made good progress in their studies.

DISTRICT No. 3.

Spring and Fall terms taught by Abbie E. Knowles of Manchester. What is said at the examination in No. 13 applies to these schools.

Winter term taught by Manley H. Blaisdell of Rome. We think Mr. Blaisdell has labored to the best of his ability for the benefit of his school, which is orderly and pleasant, with fair improvement. This district has a very good house, which cannot be said of every school-house in our town; the largest number of pupils and the smallest percentage attending school.
DISTRICT No. 4.

Miss O. L. Penney of this town had charge of the Summer term. This school was small, but at our visits, very still, studious and well behaved. Short, well learned lessons were recited. A good beginning for a profitable term. Found more scholars present at the second visit and general deportment good.

Mr. Cottle of Mt. Vernon taught the Winter term. We found more large scholars present than usual; there was not so much interest manifested by some as seemed desirable, and an apparent lack of ambition. The teacher being young, and of a retiring disposition, allowed them too much latitude, which coupled with other influences not entirely under his control, detracted from the usefulness of the school. We feel Mr. Cotter did as well as he could, and fair progress was made.

DISTRICT No. 5.

1st Winter term, taught by Miss E. E. Braley of this town, who entered upon and continued her labors with enthusiasm, which she imparted to her pupils. This school is very small, but ranks well in native talent.

2d Winter term is under the direction of Miss R. R. Fletcher of Mt. Vernon, (who has taught two schools in that town.) This school has been in progress but one week, therefore we are unable to tell its result. The school-house in this district should be properly fitted, or abandoned for school purposes.

DISTRICT No. 6.

Summer term taught by Miss Frank Morrill. Found quite a large number of small scholars present, quite restless of course; teacher anxious to perform well her part; strict attention to punctuation and inflection. Were pleased to observe that the teacher gave her whole attention to the class she had reciting, without allowing herself to be interrupted by other pupils. There was a very good average attendance and fair progress made.

Fall term by Inez Cummings. Found thirteen small pupils present, but doing nicely, good order, attention, wide awake, interested, and acquitted themselves finely. This teacher seemed especially adapted to instruct small scholars, attaching herself to them by her pleasant manners and active interest in their behalf, keeping them from mischief by interesting them in their lessons. Closing before we were aware of it, we made but one visit.

Winter term by M. C. Weston of this town. This teacher being well and favorably known, no words of ours can add to his reputation as a teacher. He strove with his usual zeal to make this school one of profit. With forty scholars in the district that draw money, it seems strange that only twenty are registered this term.

DISTRICT No. 7.

No Summer term. Winter term is under the instruction of Carrie L. Rogers of this district. This district has been favored with
three terms of free high schooling in connection with good town schools and interested parents, which has raised the standard of education higher with them than at any previous period. We deem the demands of this district require a first-class teacher. Miss Rogers possesses these elements, having been a very hard and thorough worker, with aptitude for learning, and physical force with which to do school work. This school we found at our examinations to be orderly, studious and interested in school work, which they exemplified with honor to themselves and credit to their teacher's unwearied efforts. This school is to continue some seven weeks.

A fall term of high school has been taught in this district by Emily F. Williams of Readfield, who has been in charge of this school several terms, which is a good indication that her labors were duly appreciated. What has been said in former reports in commendation of this teacher's services can be applied here.

DISTRICT No. 8.

No Summer term. Winter school is under the direction of Mr. John F. Spaulding of this town, who entered upon his work with a firm and steady hand, faithfully performing his duties. On examination we found everything moving well, with some seven weeks to keep. We anticipate it a success. This school though small, ranks with the first in our town for advancement.

DISTRICT No. 9.

Summer term taught by Alletta F. Deane of Mansfield, Mass. This school was well classified, and was conducted in a very satisfactory manner. The best of feeling seemed to exist between teacher and pupils, which added much to the success of the school. We consider this a profitable term.

In winter taught by Lilla M. Austin of this town. We think this district has been fortunate the past year in securing the services of competent teachers. The scholars made good progress under Miss Austin's management, and so far as we know, gave satisfaction to the district.

DISTRICT No. 10.

Taught by Emma E. Smith of Waterford. At our first visit to this school, we did not find so much force manifested by the teacher as we had hoped to find, and as a natural consequence the scholars were inclined to be careless and indifferent both in the manner of recitations and general deportment, but at the close of the school, there had been a change for the better, and fair progress made.

In Winter taught by John F. Spaulding of this town. As we were not informed of the time of the close of this school, cannot report success or failure, but from what we know of this teacher's ability have no doubt he kept a good school.

DISTRICT No. 11.

Summer and Fall terms taught by Rev. Wm. H. Blaisdell of
Rome. A first-class teacher of extensive and successful practice, who managed and instructed this school in a very, very profitable and practical manner. There is no lack of life and ambition in this school. This is one of the most advanced schools in our town, and should have the benefits of a Free High School. The schoolhouse in this district is not adapted to present necessities.

DISTRICT No. 12.

Miss Laura A. Page of this town had charge of the Summer term, and good advancement was made. Think this teacher gave good satisfaction to the district.

In Winter taught by Chas. D. Austin of this town. This teacher has labored before in this school with general acceptation. Found a very full attendance and all doing well. As we were not informed when this school closed, it received but one visit, but trust a profitable term was the result.

DISTRICT No. 13.

No Summer term. Winter term taught by Miss A. E. Knowles of Manchester. At the first visit, your committee found a full school; the teacher hard at work, and the scholars interested and orderly. At the examination, found a small school with a fair degree of improvement; the scholars and teacher quiet and happy. The house in this district should be properly fitted for school purposes.

DISTRICT No. 14.

Summer term commenced by Miss J. A. Greeley, Readfield. After continuing three weeks, it being a hard school to govern, it was deemed advisable to have it put under the charge of a firmer disciplinarian. The agent then engaged Miss Laura A. Fifield of Waterville, a graduate of the Classical Institute. We think she commenced with the determination to preserve order, and make her services profitable to the district, but there soon arose differences between the teacher and some of the larger girls that resulted in your committee being called to settle the matter, which was compromised by one of the girls withdrawing from the school without an investigation. We think if this teacher had not allowed herself to have been influenced by parties outside the school-room, it would have been pleasanter for her and more profitable to the district. Some of the smaller pupils receiving a larger part of the attention, made good proficiency.

Winter term taught by A. E. Mann of Casco, who came to us highly recommended, having had much experience, passed a very good examination, and had very practical ideas of methods of teaching. At the first visit we found the school very quiet and never appeared better, and we felt confident of a first-class school. At the second visit, we were very sorry to find our hopes had not been fully realized. The school had lapsed into a very different one than we visited at first, there being much whispering and idleness. While some had improved quite well, others had done very little.
deficient in order, or some other essential element. Yet, if a teacher is fairly successful before going there, the training received will fit him for better work. Other very helpful means for you is to attend Teachers' Institutes, taking the "New England Journal of Education," and by visiting the schools of our best teachers. You can thereby gain a great many practical ideas that will enhance the value of your work. If you would make progressive, successful school workers, you must make teaching a study. We find some teachers at this day who depend almost entirely upon the text book. The moment it is out of their hands they are afloat. No one can expect to make his pupils understand what he does not himself but imperfectly. "The stream cannot rise higher than the fountain." Therefore, lay your work; be thoroughly posted on every lesson before you come before your class; be in earnest and your pupils will be; remember that activity is a law of childhood; they must and will have something to do. If the teacher is not very careful, this essential to success in the child may become a source of annoyance, if not positive trouble; for if left to his own inclination it will show itself in some serious disturbance. Keep them engaged in something that will interest as well as instruct, and you will find much of the difficulty experienced in maintaining order overcome.

Respectfully submitted by

DISTRICT No. 15.

Both Summer and Winter terms were taught by John E. Downes of this town. At the examination of these schools at the close, the scholars showed they had been thoroughly drilled in the branches taught, and did credit to themselves and the teacher. Mr. Downes has labored with praiseworthy zeal for the interest of this school, and his efforts have been crowned with success.

DISTRICT No. 16.

Summer term taught by Mary C. Wyman. When visited found excellent discipline had been established, teacher self-possessed, and discharging her duties satisfactorily to your committee. After a few weeks that dread disease diphtheria crept into the little flock, and spread so alarmingly that it was deemed prudent to close the school. Consequently received but one visit.

Miss Marcia L. Snow of Skowhegan, has taught the Winter term in a very satisfactory manner to the district. By her pleasant and sympathetic nature, she soon gained the love of her pupils and harmony and good will prevailed. After a few weeks the teacher was stricken by the dread disease, and for a time her life was despaired of, yet she survived and was able to finish her school. At our partial examination, found as good improvement as could be expected. Ten pupils from this little district have been taken by that dread destroyer, diphtheria, and passed to a higher, happier and holier school, to be taught of Him who said: "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me; for of such is the kingdom of Heaven."

DISTRICT No. 17.

Summer term taught by Miss Cora Cummings of Madison. This is a pleasant, industrious school of small scholars, always very punctual and regular in attendance. Teacher active and earnest, yet we think should be a little firmer in government. Good improvement was visible.

Winter term by H. F. D. Wyman. We found here some good talent and an eager desire to learn, scholars well disposed, seldom needing reproof, punctual—quite a number that did not miss one half day the entire term. The parents in general are interested for their children and heartily co-operated with the teacher for the promotion of the best interests of the school.

DISTRICT No. 18.

Both Summer and Winter terms taught by Miss Etta E. Lovejoy of Sidney. Miss Lovejoy is a young teacher, these being her first schools, yet her manner of teaching is superior to that of many older and more experienced teachers. She is perfectly at home in the school room, and has a natural tact for imparting instruction which has made her services profitable to this school and satisfactory to the district.