1877

Annual Reports of the Selectmen and Superintending School Committee of the Town of Farmington, for the Year Ending February 20, 1877

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ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

SELECTMEN

AND

Superintending School Committee

OF THE

TOWN OF FARMINGTON,

FOR THE

Year Ending February 20, 1877.

FARMINGTON:
PRINTED AT NOVELTY JOB PRESS.
1877.
To the Citizens of Farmington:

Your Selectmen would respectfully submit the following Report in relation to the financial condition of the Town, together with the amount of receipts and expenditures from February 21st, 1876, to February 20th, 1877.

After taking an Inventory of the real and personal estate, we found the valuation of the Town to be Nine Hundred and Fifty-five Thousand, Five Hundred and Thirteen Dollars (955,513.00), and the number of Polls to be Eight Hundred and Sixty-four (864).

Assessed 137 Dogs at $1.00 each.

Upon the polls and estates we have assessed the following named sums, to wit:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Tax</td>
<td>$544.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Tax</td>
<td>1014.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support of Schools</td>
<td>2610.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support of Poor</td>
<td>1500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defraying Town Charges</td>
<td>1500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairs of Roads and Bridges</td>
<td>5000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Bridges</td>
<td>1000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paying Interest on Indebtedness</td>
<td>600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overlays</td>
<td>733.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$19,397.90

On the 10th day of July, 1876, we committed lists of said assessments unto Andrew T. Tuck, Collector of said Town.

We subsequently committed a supplemental assessment to said Collector, amounting to the sum of Seventy-six Dollars, making the total amount committed to the Collector Nineteen Thousand Six Hundred Ten Dollars and Ninety Cents ($19,610.90), and the number of Polls Thirteen, making the total number of Polls Eight Hundred and Seventy-seven (877).
TREASURER’S STATEMENT.
FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 20th, 1877.

CR.
By Received of A. T. Tuck, Collector, $12,760.47
for Town Orders sold, 3970.00
State, Mill Tax and School Fund, 1771.37
Railroad Tax, 1874, 28.23
of A. Currier, the interest on School Fund, 112.00
Selectmen for city of Portland, 299.56
town of Avon, 55.50
License, A. J. Wheeler, 10.00
town of Smithfield, 57.00
Strong, 31.35
Chesterville, 130.00
Stark, 5.50
Dolly Ross stand. sold, 225.00
Payment on C. D. Sewall Note, 42.00
of State, balance for High School, 274.87
A. T. Tuck, Collector, Interest on Taxes, 72.00
Non-resident Taxes, 285.09
from all other sources, 316.44

$20,546.38

DR.
To Paid Orders, $19,178.65
for Coupons on Town Bonds, 527.50
Pensions to A. Titcomb, T. R. Bragg, Mrs. L. M. Lowell, 72.00
Non-resident Taxes not collected, 69.63
Cash in the Treasury, 698.63

$20,546.38

PETR. P. TUFTS, Treasurer.

FARMINGTON LIQUOR AGENCY.

February 20, 1877. Dr.
To Stock on hand Feb. 17, 1876, $ 291.50
Liquors bought of E. P. Chase, from Feb. 17, 1876 to Feb. 20, 1877, 1950.10
Freight on Liquors, 46.00
Agent’s Salary for the year, 200.00
$2486.60

February 20, 1877. Cr.
By amount of sales of Liquors from Feb. 17, 1876 to Feb. 20, 1877, 2061.67
Sales of empty casks, 51.00
Liquors on hand Feb. 20, 1877, 369.51
Amount to balance acct., 4.42

$2486.60
EXPENDITURES.

Paid School Orders by Peter P. Tufts, Treasurer, $5143.20
Interest on Town bonds, 527.50
Timothy R. Bragg, pension, 24.00
Albert Titcomb, pension, 24.00
Widow Louisa M. Lowell, pension, 24.00
Peter P. Tufts, services as Treasurer for 1876, 65.00
George Gower, " " Selectman " 1875, 165.50
C. B. Russell, " " " " " 1875, 152.00
Benj. Goodwin, " " " " 122.44
I. Warren Merrill, " " Town Clerk, 10.00
Hiram Titcomb, " " Supt. School Com., 1875, 53.65
D. H. Knowlton, " " " " 1875, 38.50
J. R. Voter, " " " " 46.25
Joseph S. Craig, for rent of Town House, 50.00
F. C. Perkins, for rent of Selectmen's Office, 37.25
R. B. Jennings, taking charge of Town House, 5.00
Maine Insane Hospital, for the support of Maria Norris, 436.44
Phoebe Hiscock and Martha Bailey, Collector for abatement on Taxes for 1875, 266.41
" " " " " 1874, 97.16
" " " " " 1873, 42.61
" " " " " 1872, 18.75
Abatements on sundry Taxes, 83.53
Collector, for Discount on Taxes for 1876, 454.80
Miss Harriet Hiscock (and endorsed on Order No. 133), 30.00
Abatement on Non-Resident Taxes for 1874, 11.65
for support of Robert Hanaford and family, (same paid by city of Portland), 124.25
for support of E. E. Cook, (same paid by town of Avon), 4.00
" " Lawrence Garcelin and family, (same charged to Strong), 14.50
for support of A. J. Bemis, (same charged to town of Levant), 55.00
Dr. J. A. Richards, for medical attendance on Mrs. L. B. Fredericks, (same paid by town of Stark), 5.50
Dr. J. A. Richards, for medical attendance on Fremont Avery, (same charged to town of Fairfield), 3.50
William H. Bragg, for boarding Fremont Avery, (same charged to town of Fairfield), 7.00
for removing a Frenchman to Canada, 7.50
for supplies furnished Jasper Wendall's son, 3.60
for support of Mrs. Louisa M. Lowell and family, (same charged to town of Chesterville), 23.50
P. Dyer, M. D., for medical attendance on Enoch Avery, city of Auburn for support of Ella O. Marvill in Insane Hospital, &c., 66.20
A. S. Butterfield, for one pair boots for Mrs. Eliza Corbett, town of Industry, for supplies furnished Henry T. Allen and family, 20.03
Paid Mrs. J. M. Bumpus, for boarding and taking care of Mrs.
Abby Tibbetts and child, (paid by town of Smithfield), 39 00
J. A. Richards, for medical attendance on Abby Tibbetts,
(same paid by town of Smithfield), 18 00
Wheeler and Currier for supplies furnished Jasper Wendall,
" " " " Lawrence Gar- 2 00
celin and family, (same paid by town of Strong), 30 00
Isaac Russell, for carrying Mrs. Dicker to Temple, (same 2 00
charged to town of Temple),
for support of Dolly Ross ($91 50 of the same refunded by her from proceeds of her house), 124 00
John B. Morrison, for expenses in removing a Crocker girl to the Orphan’s Home in Bath, 5 00
A. T. Tuck, Collector, for three Resident Tax Deeds, 147 91
H. L. Perkins, for damage to sleigh sustained on Highway, 8 00
David Currier, “ “ horse “ Fairbanks’ Bridge, 25 00
A. D. Horn, for damage to himself and carriage sustained 20 00
at the Red Bridge, near Fairbanks’ Mills,-
A. J. Bemis, for damage sustained on Highway, 200 00
Road Bills, 6862 63
for labor and material on Perham Hill Road,
Alvin Currier, services as Trustee and Treasurer of School Fund, for four years ending March 6, 1876, 6 00
Elijah Norton, for services as Trustee for School Fund for four years ending March 6, 1876, 2 00
Joseph Butterfield, for services as Trustee for School Fund, for four years ending March 6, 1876, 2 00
John Titcomb, for services as Trustee for School Fund, for five years ending March 6, 1876, 2 50
Peter R. Tufts, for services as Trustee for School Fund, for four years ending March 6, 1876, 2 00
R. B. Jennings, for ringing bell for year ending Mar., 1876, 1 50
J. S. Wendall, for lighting Center Bridge, 23 00
E. M. Prince, for lighting Falls Bridge for two years, 19 53
for work on abutment under Walton’s Mill Bridge, 7 00
Morrison and Sewall, for building the bridge near N. A. Voter’s, 185 00
John R. Voter, for rebuilding abutments to bridge near N. A. Voter’s, 68 00
Willard Stoddard, for repairs on bridge near N. L. Voter’s, 10 00
Chauncy Bangs, for building a wall on the side of road near J. S. Craig’s, 6 00
for rebuilding the abutments and repairing the Red Bridge near Fairbanks’ Mills, 221 95
Luther Gordon, for plank for Williams Bridge, 6 75
E. S. Bragg, for lighting Red Bridge, 7 60
Geo. Gower, for 2400 feet hard wood plank, 33 60
Geo. Mosher, for plank furnished for bridge near his house, 5 40
Josiah Cutler, for plank furnished for bridge at the Falls, 13 00
Thos. Williams, for plank furnished for Center Bridge in ’75, 88 02
Paid J. F. Prescott, for plank furnished for Furbush and Center Bridges, 20 15
plank and labor on Center Bridge, 21 50
Jos. Gould, plank furnished for bridge near Hobb’s Mills, 19 13
J. C. Church, for building water course near Dr. E. S. 70 00
Johnson’s house,
Melvin P. Tufts, for planking Fairbanks’ Bridge, 126 82
for printing, stationery, blank books, &c., 46 61
V. L. Craig, for services as Committee on School Districts 2 50
for 1874,
Simon Collins, for curb-stones and posts furnished for side­ 283 00
walk, and for labor performed on same (as per contract),
H. L. Whitcomb, for services as Attorney, 19 31
S. C. Belcher, “ “ “ “ in case of Farm­ 131 90
ington vs. New Vineyard,
for expenses in Crocker case—Weld vs. Farmington, 94 29
for Free High School, 612 25
Virgil L. Craig, Bradford Sewall and A. W. Johnson, for 6 00
surveying Perham Hill road with Co. Commissioners,
Daniel Heath, for use of watering place, 3 00
Stephen Titcomb, “ “ “ “ 3 00
Walter Nichols, for surveying, and examining Tax-book 3 00
of 1872,
Sylvanus Knowlton, in part on contract from April 1, 1876, 981 90
to April 1, 1877,
to the town of Maysville, for support of Geo. Reed (part 104 00
of the same charged to Sylvanus & Henry T. Knowlton),
$19,351 66
EXPENSE FOR SUPPORT OF PAUPERS.

Your Overseers of the Poor contracted with Sylvanus Knowlton for the support of the following named persons, from April 1st, 1876, to April 1st, 1877, to wit: Jerusha Howes, Olive Ann Richardson, Daniel Witham, James B. Foot and wife, Mrs. Thomas Daggett and daughter, Robert Hannaford and wife, Hannah Crocker and children, Dolly Ross, Henry T. Allen and family, and all other persons that have been helped within two years past, and also all that may become chargeable as paupers within the year, after he receives notice of the same from the Overseers of the Poor, excepting insane paupers, for the sum of Thirteen Hundred Dollars,

$1,300.00

Paid Maine Insane Hospital, for support of Maria Norris, Phebe Hiscock, and Martha Bailey, city of Auburn, for expenses in carrying Ella O. Marvill to the Insane Hospital and for her support while there, for the support of Dolly Ross, above the amount which has been repaid from the proceeds of the sale of her stand, other pauper bills not in contract,

$1,880.02

RESOURCES OF THE TOWN.

Amount in the hands of Collector for 1875,

$1214.62

1876,

3835.50

Interest on Taxes due from Collector,

due from the town of Strong,

100.00

Levant,

14.50

Fairfield,

55.00

Chesterfield,

10.50

State, (school fund),

28.50

Town, (school fund),

733.84

(mill tax),

1043.07

in the hands of Peter P. Tufts, Treasurer, non-resident taxes,

112.00

on real estate sold for taxes,

696.63
cash in the Treasury, Feb. 20, 1877,

218.32
due from D. H. & Joel Hobart,

107.00

Bondsman's Note, Alvan Currier and others,

267.51

balance on Bondsman's Note, C. D. Sewall and others,

234.82

$8,738.41
SELECTMEN’S ANNUAL REPORT:

LIABILITIES.

Interest bearing Town Orders, and accrued interest, $4899 00
Town Orders awaiting payment by the Treasurer, 85 93
School " " " " " " " " 124 30
Amount due the several School Districts, being balance undrawn, 2066 79
Bonded Debt, with accrued interest, 8050 00

$51,226 02

Deduct resources of the Town.

8,875 41

Present indebtedness of the Town, $6,350 61

ESTIMATES FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

For support of Schools, $2610 00
Poor, 1800 00
defraying Town charges, 1500 00
paying interest on Town Bonds, 500 00
Debt, 250 00
roads and small bridges, 6000 00
contingent fund (for large bridges), 1000 00

ESTIMATES FOR TOWN OFFICER’S BILLS.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 5th, 1877.

C. B. Russell, for services as Selectman, 155 00
Benj. Goodwin, " " " 140 00
Z. H. Greenwood, " " " 155 00
Peter P. Tufts, " " Town Treasurer 50 00
Superintending School Committee, 140 00
I. W. Merrill, Town Clerk, 10 00

All of which is respectfully submitted,

C. B. RUSSELL, BENJ. GOODWIN, Z. H. GREENWOOD, Selectmen of the Town of Farmington.
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Citizens of Farmington:
The Superintending School Committee of this town herewith present
their Annual Report.

There have been held in town during the year fifty-one terms of school,
most of which have been visited twice, some more than twice, and a few
only once. In several instances schools have been closed without the know-
ledge of the committee and were not visited a second time. To teach these
schools forty-three different teachers have been employed. Only in Nos. 4,
0 and 17, have there been teachers who have worked through the year.
In Nos. 3, 7 and 15, summer and fall terms were taught by the same teachers.
The results are apparent. One teacher takes a school, organizes classes,
disciplines and instructs to the satisfaction of the committee. A successor
the next term perhaps does just as good work, while a third does not and
annot take the work where the former teachers left it, and the schools are
ent at the close of the year but little in advance, and worse still, some
schools lose in discipline and organization more than they have gained
under the former teachers. There is no reason why a satisfactory teacher
ould not be retained for at least one year.

An idea is prevalent that any one can teach a summer school if a certificate
an be had of the committee. Most of our summer schools are primary,
where the most careful instruction is required in order that the foundation
or the child's education may be carefully made. In most of our large cities
high school graduates, even, are not allowed to teach in the primary schools
without special training. Yet our people are allowing young girls without
even a high school education to teach, because the schools are small. When
the committee are informed that only minimum wages will be paid, their
duty is not always plain. Summer schools will be small so long as all con-
cerned expect only inferior schools. The attendance in summer would be
largely increased if people demanded as efficient teachers in summer as in
winter.
DISCIPLINE.

We are not satisfied with the school discipline in town. Too many parents are hostile to any teacher who requires obedience and study in the school room, and the boys and girls of Farmington know it. This sentiment operates against every effort of teacher and committee to insure the first essential of a good school—order. In one case a number of boys were disobedient and were called to account by the teacher. With the approval of the committee two of the boys were allowed to leave the school or receive a punishment. The boys took their books and went home. Several days after, the father of one of the boys called upon the teacher and informed him that his boy was going to return to school that day, and that if the boy was punished he would prosecute the teacher. The boy returned and, we are glad to state, was punished. So long as parents take such a position in relation to punishing pupils for their misdemeanors at school, they are not only in the way of good order, but are encouraging their children in acts of disobedience against the legally constituted authority of the land. We fear there are one or two districts in town where no more successful schools will be held till parents change their position and assist in the promotion of good order in school and society. Another source of difficulty is the disposition of some agents to get only such teachers as will teach for what they are willing to pay them, and sometimes they are not willing to pay much, so that many teachers who commence their work are incompetent to preserve good order. Perhaps such teachers receive all they earn, but poor service is unsatisfactory at any price and very poor economy on the part of any district, and will surely perpetuate all the school evils existing. If an agent does not know a teacher's attainments, it is not safe to employ without consulting some one who does know. We would therefore recommend all agents to consult the committee before employing any teacher. Be sure you are employing a satisfactory teacher first, and then make the price sufficient to secure the service. People will not be satisfied with a poor teacher at any price. The price paid is never questioned when a school is satisfactory and profitable.

EXPENDITURE OF SCHOOL MONEY.

It is the custom of many agents to stop their schools whenever they choose. The consequence is that a large balance of school money is unexpended, and by this neglect the state school money (§1776 91) is withheld from the whole town. In No. 16 there will be a balance unexpended of this year's money amounting to $84 13, where the whole money was only $161 03. In Dist. No. 20 the balance is $48 38, the whole money being $167 58, and the schools are closed and expenditures are made for this year. In both of these
districts the schools were satisfactory and there is no good reason why the money should not have been expended. Agents should not stop their schools before the money is expended without the advice of the committee.

In district No. 3 the money for this year amounted to $444.96, and there is now an unexpended balance of $218.29, of which $75 to $100 may be expended before the first of April. During the year there will have been three terms of school, over thirty weeks in all, and each term has been satisfactory. But a large balance has not been expended this year, and the same was true last. Now, if this district is to have as much money in the future, they should be required to provide for its expenditure, either by having a primary school in some part of the district a part or all of the year, or erect a larger school house and have graded schools in that. There is work for two teachers, and two teachers can do that work much better than one.

WRITTEN WORK.

We are glad to notice that in most of our schools more written work has been done than last year. This is as it should be, and we would urge that still more of it be done in future. In the past many of our boys and girls have left their school work without discipline in written work. Consequently many are now unable to do the work for which their education should fit them. In the Village Intermediate School every pupil can write a legible hand, and there is no reason why older pupils in all our schools should not be able to do the same. There should be special instruction in writing in all our schools. Then there should follow written exercises in the studies pursued, and pupils should be required in these exercises to write legibly, and make what is written intelligible. They should also be required to give special attention to spelling, punctuation, and the correct use of capitals.

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL.

There are few schools which have not suffered from irregularity of attendance on the part of scholars. Is there any good reason why parents should not assist the teacher in requiring regular attendance of every scholar? And we would here urge parents to visit the schools often and see that their children are there, and that teachers and pupils are about their work. This would remedy that evil and benefit the schools in many other respects. But if the parents do not care to visit the schools themselves, let their relations towards the teacher be such as to heartily cooperate with him in securing regularity of attendance and everything else that the interest of the school may require.

SCHOOL AGENTS

have generally manifested an interest in the welfare of their schools, and in most cases have done well. Some of our agents have devoted much time
and attention to the wants of the schools, and their work has accomplished great good. Yet we fail to receive the full benefit of our school money. When good teachers have been employed, good results have followed, but it is hard to estimate the loss and the evils that result from poor teachers. It is true that with apparently the wisest choice, a failure sometimes occurs.

SCHOOL HOUSES.

If school houses like wine improved by age, many of those in this town would have reached perfection long ago,—but such unfortunately is not the case.

No. 12 has made a very convenient, comfortable and pleasant school room, by putting on a new roof and by increasing the height of the wall. Good ventilation is secured by a ventilator regulated by a cord running near the teacher's desk. The expense of these improvements was far from being heavy. Other districts might profit greatly by following the example.

No. 4 has erected a new and elegant school building which will be well furnished for four graded schools.

The school houses in Nos. 18 and 19 are not comfortable in winter for the pupils. Last year the committee recommended the union of 18, 19 and 23, and the erection of a new school house by the same. In case Nos. 18 and 19 do not repair their school houses, or build new ones before the next (1878) annual town meeting, we would recommend action on the part of the town in the matter.

The school house in Dist. No. 7 is cold and very uncomfortable. It takes altogether too much fuel for a fire place. The last three years it has cost this district nearly $20 per year for fuel, and their money has been less than $140 per year. The district should provide some more economical means of heating the house, to say nothing of the health and comfort of their children.

The school room in No. 1 could be better heated by a furnace. The ventilation should also be improved in some way.

VILLAGE SCHOOLS.

Since making our last report Dist. No. 4 has erected a neat and commodious school house. During the year the schools have been as good as they could be made in the old buildings. The teachers have all done well, and we can only speak with approval of their work. The agent has procured a fine record book in which will be entered the name of each pupil, his record of attendance and the progress made in his studies. This book will contain a record of only a part of this year's work, as it commences with the fall term. This record book is the property of the district and will be open for the inspection of all interested in the schools, and we call special attention
SCHOOL REPORT.

to it, and hope it may be often examined as it contains just the information parents and guardians should have concerning their children in school.

As soon as the furniture can be set up the schools will be reorganized, and will consist of four grades: Primary, Intermediate, Grammar, and High School. There is no good reason now why the schools here should not make great progress, and with the assistance of parents the teachers employed for the next term cannot fail of doing the best school work we have ever had.

TEACHERS

have generally worked hard and with profit. While many have done well, there are others of whom we should be glad to speak as having done great credit to themselves, but we must forbear making special mention here. Agents in search of competent teachers, and all others interested in the work done by teachers in town, are referred to the record in possession of the committee, wherein is set forth the work done by each teacher.

SUGGESTIONS.

Go to school meeting; put your best man in agent; instruct him to secure only the best of teachers, and sustain him in doing it. See that your scholars are at school in season; that they attend regularly. Sustain your teacher in all that is reasonable. If your children complain of bad treatment or of neglect on the part of the teacher, be not too ready to censure the teacher, and if you think such complaints are reasonable go to him and ascertain the whole truth, and then assist him in removing all cause of future complaint.

Remember that when your teacher with no other apparatus than a map has to spend hours to convince your child that the earth is round; that day and night are caused by the rotation of the earth on its axis, and that the change of seasons is occasioned by the revolution of the earth around the sun, it would be economy of time and money to place in the school room a good globe, by means of which a few moments' explanation makes the whole thing clear and easy for the child to comprehend.

Remember, also, that plenty of blackboard room is indispensable. It costs too much to require a teacher to make individual explanations to scholars when crayons and blackboards cost so little.

When your child is shaking with cold he cannot study. If your school room will not get warm by having the fire built one hour before school time, have it built an hour earlier. Don't have your scholars lose an hour or more in the morning by shivering around the fire when they ought to be at their desks and their studies. It is poor economy.

Do all that is necessary to make your schools pleasant and profitable to your children. It is as much your duty to educate your children well as it is to feed and clothe them.
SCHOOL MEETINGS.

Discuss and take action upon the following at your school meetings this year:

To provide for the expenditure of all the school money.
To provide for necessary repairs and school apparatus.
To instruct the agent to employ only competent teachers.
To instruct agent to employ some one to build fires in winter in season to have the school house properly warmed when school commences.

TABULAR STATEMENT.

As the state school year does not end till April 1st, we insert no tabular statement but make only a general report of the condition of the schools at this time. The tabular work which usually accompanies the annual report is therefore omitted, but will be published and distributed hereafter, and will be for the year ending March 31, 1877:

All of which is respectfully submitted,

D. H. KNOWLTON, Superintending
JOHN R. VOTER, School
HIRAM TITCOMB, Committee.