1878

Annual Reports of the Selectmen and Superintending School Committee of the Town of Farmington, for the Year Ending February 20, 1878

Farmington (Me.).

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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 20, 1877, to February 20, 1878.

After taking an Inventory of the Real and Personal Estate, we found the valuation of the Town to be Nine Hundred and Forty-seven Thousand, Four Hundred and Forty-seven Dollars, ($947,447.00,) and the number of Polls to be Eight Hundred and Forty-eight, (848).

Upon the Polls and Estates we have assessed the following named sums, to wit:

- For State Tax, $4,353.73
- County Tax, $1,810.91
- Support of Schools, $2,610.00
- Support of Poor, $1,800.00
- Repairs of Roads and Bridges, $6,000.00
- Contingent Fund, $1,000.00
- Soldiers' Decoration, $100.00
- To pay Town Charges, $1,800.00
- " Orders on Interest, $500.00
- " Interest on Indebtedness, $750.00
- Overlays, $741.51

$21,466.15

On the 14th day of July, 1877, we committed lists of said assessments unto Daniel Beale, Esq., Collector of said Town.

We subsequently committed a supplemental assessment to said Collector, amounting to the sum of Forty-six Dollars, making the total amount committed to the Collector, Twenty-one Thousand Five Hundred and Twelve Dollars ($21,512.15), and the number of Polls, Twelve, making the total number of Polls Eight Hundred and Sixty (860).
Treasurer's Statement,

For the Year commencing Feb. 20th, 1877, and ending Feb. 20th, 1878.

Dr.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To Paid for School Orders,</td>
<td>$5,645.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; Town Orders,</td>
<td>24,209.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; Coupons,</td>
<td>449.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; Soldiers' Pensions,</td>
<td>72.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; Town Bonds, old issue,</td>
<td>7,900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; Non-resident taxes not collected,</td>
<td>97.27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: $38,373.26

Cash in the Treasury,

808.94

Total: $39,182.20

Cr.

By received Cash in the Treasury, Feb. 20th, 1877, $698.63

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot; for Town Bonds sold,</td>
<td>8,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; Town Orders sold,</td>
<td>15,574.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; of D. Beale, Collector for 1877,</td>
<td>6,437.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; A. T. Tuck, Collector for 1875–6,</td>
<td>3,749.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; State School Fund and Mill Tax for 1876,</td>
<td>1,776.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; same for 1877,</td>
<td>1,723.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; Railroad tax for 1875 and 1876,</td>
<td>46.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; Soldiers' Pensions,</td>
<td>72.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; of Liquor Agent,</td>
<td>277.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; for License on Dogs,</td>
<td>96.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; Goods of Miss D. B. Ross, sold,</td>
<td>41.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; of Town of Avon,</td>
<td>70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot; New Vineyard,</td>
<td>15.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot; Temple,</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot; Starks,</td>
<td>6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot; Castine,</td>
<td>5.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot; Chesterville,</td>
<td>49.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; for License,</td>
<td>13.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; of Selectmen,</td>
<td>28.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; for old Bridge timber, sold,</td>
<td>35.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; Interest on taxes of 1874–5, collected by A. T. Tuck,</td>
<td>150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; of Alvan Currier, interest on School Fund,</td>
<td>111.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; A. T. Tuck, Non-resid't Taxes for 1876,</td>
<td>205.28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: $39,182.20

PETER P. TUFTS, Treasurer.
### Farmington Liquor Agency

**E. GERRY, Agent.**

February 20, 1878.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dr.</th>
<th>Cr.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To Stock on hand Feb.</td>
<td>By amount of sales of Liq-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20, 1877,</td>
<td>uors from February 20,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$369 51</td>
<td>1877, to February 20,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liquors bought of E.</td>
<td>1878, $2,414 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Chase from Feb.</td>
<td>Sales of empty casks,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20, 1877, to Feb. 20,</td>
<td>10 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1878, 1,958 98</td>
<td>Casks on hand, estimated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liquors bought of</td>
<td>value, 18 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chesterville,</td>
<td>Liquors on hand Feb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 37</td>
<td>20, 1878, (estimated,) 412 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freight on Liquors,</td>
<td>$2,854 80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agents’ Salary for the</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year, 200 00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profits on Liquors,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>276 94</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$2,854 80</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenditures.

**Paid School Bills,** $5,592 84

- Andrew T. Tuck, services as Collector for 1875, 167 88
- P. P. Tufts, " " Treasurer " 1876, 50 00
- C. B. Russell, " " Selectman " 156 75
- Benj. Goodwin, " " " 126 84
- Z. H. Greenwood, " " " 157 75
- I. Warren Merrill, " " Town Clerk " 10 00
- D. H. Knowlton, " " S.S.Committee" 49 50
- John R. Voter, " " " 51 75
- Hiram Titcomb, " " " 28 35
- Jas. H. Bonney, " " Trustee Sch’l Fund, 4 00
- Hannibal Belcher, " " " 2 00
- R. B. Jennings for taking charge of Town House, 6 00
- Joseph Craig for rent of " " 50 00
- David H. Knowlton for rent of Selectmen’s Office, 40 00
- Maine Insane Hospital for support of Mariah Norris, 444 32
  Phebe Hiscock, Martha Bailey and Olive
  Ann Richardson,
- For support of Jesse Hiscock and family (pap- 195 60
  pers of Farmington)
- For support of Olive Ann Richardson before going 110 00
  to Insane Hospital,
- Preston & Smith for goods furnished A. J. Bemis 65 86
  in 1876 (same charged to Levant)
Paid For support of Mrs. Corbett (same paid by New Vineyard) $2.00
For support of Lawrence Garcelon and family (same charged to Strong) 23.35
For support of James Foot and wife, 46.89
" " " Mrs. Daggett and daughter, 75.00
Chandler Richards for boarding O. F. Quimby, 27.41
For support of Benj. R. Avery and family (same charged to Fairfield) 47.33
For support of Mrs. Butler, 30.50
" " " Mr. Tripp and wife, 35.55
" " " Phillip Roderick, 8.55
" " " W. P. Dodge (same paid by New Vineyard,) 11.02
For support of Jasper Wendall and family, 107.39
" " " Robt. Hannaford and wife, 25.50
" " " William P. Huff and grandchild, 38.00
" " " Alfred M. Welch's wife and children, 86.75
O. G. Higgins for keeping Enoch Avery's Stock in 1875 (by order of Geo. Gower) 25.00
For support of Mrs. L. B. Fredricks (same paid by Starks) 6.00
For support of Mrs. Louisia M. Lowell (same paid by Chesterville) 5.59
For support of Albert Blabon (same paid by Chesterville) 19.38
For support of Albion Gordon (same charged to Chesterville) 10.00
For support of Samuel D. Grover and family (same paid by Avon) 70.36
For support of Mrs. Sarah Bowden and child (same paid in part by Castine) 15.05
Ransford Norcross for keeping tramps in 1876 and 1877, 40.50
Other pauper bills, 14.10
Sylvanus Knowlton for support, in part, of Daniel Witham, Jerusha Howes and Dolly Ross, 235.11
Sylvanus Knowlton balance on contract for keeping the poor from April 1, 1876 to April 1, 1877, 318.10
Collector for abatement on taxes for 1876, 196.67
" " " " 1875, 125.20
" " " " " 1874, 10.65
Abatements on sundry Taxes, 192.98
Collector for discount on Taxes for 1877, 506.11
Treasurer for abatement on sundry non-resident Taxes, 16.92
Paid Road Bills, $6,863 15

For taking down the Fairbanks Bridge, and taking it out of the river, 54 25
J. S. Wendall for lighting Center Bridge, and for Lanterns, 28 60
For lighting F. Falls Bridge, 4 50
  " snowing " " " " 5 00
J. P. Thwing, Chairman Soldiers Dec. Com. 100 00
John Morrison for removing ledge out of road near Willard Stoddard's, as per contract with Selectmen, 41 00
For Books, Stationery, Printing and Advertising, 62 39
D. H. Knowlton, C. Treasurer for expenses of C. Commissioners locating road on Quebec St., 26 02
Joseph Titcomb for damage done his sheep by dogs, 3 00
Levi Currier for rebuilding Stone Culvert near Joseph Furbush's 24 00
A. T. Tuck, Col. for 3 Resident Tax Deeds 101 22
Benj. Whitmore for crossing his land while the Fairbanks Bridge was being built, 16 04
Money for filling washout on Middle Street, 20 00
S. C. Belcher for services as Attorney, 146 00
Wilson Greaton for damage to Carriage on highway, 26 95
David Hanson " " Horse " " 10 00
F. A. Hannaford " " " " " " 10 00
I. H. Edwards " " " " " " 10 00
J. C. Church for building road on Middle Street as per contract, 300 00
J. C. Church for Railing Bridge and other work on road, 100 00
Daniel Hoyt for land damage on Middle Street, 130 00
Samuel Belcher " " " Quebec " 50 00
Charles Graham for removing wall from road, 58 12
Ira V. Cutler " " " " " 6 87
Silas Perham for building road around the hill near his house and for land damage, 75 00
For claying the Butterfield hill, 24 33
For Drain Pipe used on Highway, 123 31
Sewall & Morrison for building the Furbush Bridge, 292 50
For stone and for building abutments of the Furbush Bridge, 10 55 43
Sewall & Morrison for building Bridge near N. A. Voter's, 2
N. A. Voter for repairing abutments and making fill for Bridge near his house,
Paid For support of Mrs. Corbett (same paid by New Vineyard) $2.00
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paid for repairs on large Bridges</td>
<td>$42 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot; &quot; roads by order of Selectmen</td>
<td>22 34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter Nichols for surveying.</td>
<td>9 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For foundation of Pier for Fairbanks' Bridge</td>
<td>$1184 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; stone work on new Piers</td>
<td>2559 44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; Iron Bridge</td>
<td>3300 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; repairing old Pier and shore ends of Bridge</td>
<td>163 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z. H. Greenwood for work on Bridge</td>
<td>160 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bills not paid on Bridge</td>
<td>$9 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total amount expended on Fairbanks Bridge</td>
<td>7376 04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For expenses in Crocker case, New Vineyard vs. Farmington</td>
<td>127 93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For expenses in Crocker case, Weld vs. Farmington</td>
<td>419 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For expenses in Backus case, John F. Backus vs. Farmington</td>
<td>125 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curb stone for sidewalk near the M. E. Chapel, and for setting same and for work done there</td>
<td>35 61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on Town Orders</td>
<td>282 44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidental expenses</td>
<td>38 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$27,195 48</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expenses for Support of Paupers.**

Your Overseers of the Poor contracted with Sylvanus Knowlton for the support of Daniel Witham, Jerusha Howes and Dolly Ross, from April 1st, 1877, to April 1st, 1878, for the sum of Three Hundred and Sixty-five Dollars, $365 00

Paid Ivory Welch for supporting A. M. Welch's wife and child from April 1, 1877, to April 1, 1878, $80 00

Susan Daggett for supporting her mother and sister, from April 1, 1877, to April 1, 1878, $100 00

Maine Insane Hospital for support of Mariab Norris, Phebe Hiscock, Martha Bailey and Olive Ann Richardson, $444 32

Miscellaneous Pauper Bills, $601 85

Estimated cost of Pauper Bills not contracted for from Feb. 20, 1878, to April 1, 1878, $108 93

**Total** $1,700 00
Resources of the Town.

Amount in the hands of the Collector for 1876, $1,101 17
  "  "  "  "  "  "  "  1877, 8,910 20
  "  "  "  "  due from the Town of Strong, 37 85
  "  "  "  "  Levant, 105 86
  "  "  "  "  Fairfield, 57 83
  "  "  "  "  Fairfield, 10 00
  "  "  "  "  Chesterville, 9 00
  "  "  "  "  (interest on school fund), 112 00
  "  "  "  "  in the hands of Treasurer, Non-resident Taxes, 97 27
  "  "  "  "  on Real Estate, sold for Taxes, 273 85
  "  "  "  "  Cash in the Treasury Feb. 20, 1878, 808 94
  "  "  "  "  due from D. H. & Joel Hobart, 107 00
  "  "  "  "  Bondsman’s Note, Alvan Currier & others, 267 51
  "  "  "  "  balance on Bondsman’s note, C. D. Sewall and others, 234 82
  "  "  "  "  old bridge timber and iron sold and on hand, 45 00
  "  "  "  "  due from School District No. 4, 37 98

$ 12,216 28

Liabilities.

Interest bearing Town Orders drawing 6 per cent. interest, $3,141 00
Interest bearing Town Orders drawing 5 per cent. interest, 13,632 00
Town Orders awaiting payment by the Treasurer, 257 14
School Orders " " " " 71 40
Amount due the several School Districts, being balance undrawn, 920 17
Bonded Debt (drawing 5 per cent., and accrued interest to April 1st), 8,200 00

$26,221 71

Deduct Resources of the Town, 12,216 28

Present Indebtedness of the Town (as far as shown by Orders drawn), $14,005 43
ESTIMATES FOR TOWN OFFICERS' BILLS FOR THE YEAR ENDING
MARCH 4, 1878.

Benj. Goodwin for services as Selectman, $160 00
Z. H. Greenwood " " 155 00
C. B. Russell " " 155 00
P. P. Tufts " Town Treasurer, 75 00
Superintending School Committee, 140 00
I. W. Merrill, Town Clerk, 10 00

Estimates for the Ensuing Year.

For Support of Schools, $ 2,610 00
" " Poor, 1,800 00
Defraying Town Charges, 1,800 00
Paying interest on the Town's indebtedness, 1,200 00
Roads and Small Bridges, 6,000 00
Contingent Fund, (for Large Bridges), 1,000 00
Paying outstanding indebtedness (in part), 1,000 00

$15,410 00

All of which is respectfully submitted,

BENJ. GOODWIN,
Z. H. GREENWOOD,
C. B. RUSSELL,

Selectmen of the Town of Farmington.
Citizens of Farmington:—

Your Superintending School Committee herewith present for your consideration their annual report of the condition of the schools under their supervision. It has been thought best to present a statement of each district by itself, and we trust these statements may be carefully examined and compared by all interested in the welfare of the town in future.

THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

The time has come when a further examination of this system should be considered by the tax-payers of the town, and particularly by those who desire better schools for their children. In spite of every effort of the Committee many of our schools have not been satisfactory, and the less said of some of the causes the better. The idea that there has been too much school money the past few years is not advanced by those residing in the small districts, for very few of them are satisfied with the money they have received, and from the smaller districts comes the complaint that the larger districts are having too long schools and are spending too much money, while they have much shorter schools. To illustrate, in No. 3 there have been 25 weeks of school, and the winter term is not through yet; in No. 8 there were only 10½ weeks in all. In other words the children in No. 3 have had over 25 weeks of schooling and those in No. 8 only 10½ weeks. The inequality is apparent. In apportioning the school money $629.22 was distributed among the small districts. The law limits the amount to 20 per ct. of the whole money, but unfortunately in this town it takes 20 to 50 per ct. from the larger districts and places it in the smaller; and even then on account of the size and number of those districts fails to equalize the schools. In the village district, which contains quite one-third of all the scholars in town, there have been over 30 weeks of school, and in part to meet the effect of the withdrawal of what would have increased the village money
about 35 per ct., the district has raised by taxation $300, and yet the village gets too much money, say some. Again, the inequality goes further in the expense per scholar. To illustrate, in the village district the cost per scholar for teaching is not far from 30 cts. per week for each pupil, while in No. 6 the cost is not less than $1 per week, and in No. 30 the cost is $1.25. This estimate does not include fuel and other expenses of running the schools. If these were added the difference would be still greater. Is this economy? Is there any good reason why the town should pay four or five times as much for schooling the pupils of the small districts as of the larger? In these times when every one is demanding a reduction of expenses, should the abuse be longer tolerated?

Now, let us look for the remedy; and we shall endeavor to do so without prejudice. The average length of our rural schools is less than twenty weeks each year. There is no need of more money to increase the length of these, but there is need of expending the money we now have more wisely. It is not right to ask the town to raise more money when the tuition costs the town (not the districts) from twenty to one hundred per ct. more per scholar in the smaller than in the larger districts, and that too when 15 per ct. of the whole money is drawn from two or three of the larger districts and given to the smaller. This is unjust to the whole town. In the larger districts the length of schools varies from 22 to 32 weeks. The difficulty exists in the number of districts into which the town is divided. In the Province of New Brunswick, whose school system is one of the best on the continent, the average length of the country schools is over 36 weeks, and no more money is expended per scholar than in Farmington. Some may say that this is due to the wages paid for teaching, but the fact is higher wages are paid, and the teachers are better qualified than ours. The explanation is back of all this. It is in the size of their schools, which is established by a general law of the Province. There no school district can be formed containing less than sixty scholars except in the sparsely settled portions of the Province. In such sections the school district must contain at least four square miles. Can Farmington not learn something from this? We do not recommend that the same rules be adopted here, but there certainly are too many districts in town to do profitable school work, and it is unwise for the town longer to waste its school money. By the discontinuance of several districts, and their consolidation with others, much money could be saved—the schools lengthened and improved. There would then be means whereby the best teachers could be employed, school houses repaired and well furnished.
Several school houses have been repaired and made more comfortable. But it is unfortunate that in every case the districts availed themselves of the full 10 per ct. allowed by law for that purpose. In other words they have used all the school money they could for this purpose at the expense of their children. We heartily congratulate the districts in having improved their school houses, but we are not at all in sympathy with that economy which robs the children to do what the State and town expect the districts themselves to do. There was given to the smaller districts in town in order to equalize so far as possible the school money, $629.22; and it seems to be an injustice to all concerned to use such money or any part of it for other than legitimate school work. Query: "Who repaired the school houses?"

TO PARENTS AND FRIENDS.

It has frequently happened that teachers have been unable to carry out the suggestions made by the Committee. The teachers are not in all instances responsible for the failure. We think the advice we have given teachers necessary, and that the schools would have been improved if it had been more closely followed. In several cases teachers have found pupils unwilling to read or write, and some unwilling to take other studies. Some teachers have found parents and others in sympathy with such pupils, and without the assistance of the Committee have failed to require such scholars to do the work prescribed. This is all wrong. Parents should aid the teacher always in his work. If criticism must be made, don't make it before your children. Go to the teacher and if the teacher is wrong, go to your Committee, but don't allow your children to question in the least either the teacher's ability or right. You may spoil a term of school if you do, and not only lose yourself but injure all your neighbors. Some of the suggestions referred to have been made with reference to studies and methods of instruction; and in order to you may be in sympathy with the teacher in his work we submit a few hints or suggestions for your consideration upon some of the studies pursued in the schools. We ask you to examine the same with care, not to criticise errors, but to assist teachers and pupils in their work. Further than this, see that your children are regular in their attendance and studious in their school habits. This concerns you and your children.

READING.

In several schools pupils have advanced rapidly in reading, in others less progress has been made; and in some the
instruction has been very unsatisfactory and pupils have become careless in the pronunciation of the words, and worse still have no appreciation of what they read. The primary aim in reading is to enable the pupils to read with profit to themselves; the secondary, to read with pleasure to others. To secure either the pupil must understand what he reads. It is not enough for him to read correctly after the teacher; the instruction must go further so that the words not understood by the learner may be explained by the teacher, so that beyond the mere reading of any piece or pieces from the reader there should be a knowledge of the words themselves. Then the subject matter of what is read should be discussed and explained, and the pupils should be required to give in their own language the story or substance of whatever may be read by them. The reading in the school room should not be confined to the text book. Teachers should require exercises in reading from other books, from magazines and newspapers, and observe that the same rules for reading are followed as when the text books are used. Unfortunately, the readers in use in the schools outside the village are not sufficiently attractive to interest the pupils, and in many cases are too difficult for the classes in which they are used. Teachers and others are thoroughly dissatisfied with the National Readers, and there seems to be a call for different books on all sides, a call which only the “hard times” have prevented your Committee from heeding; and this leads us to mention SPELLING.

The same feeling exists in relation to the speller in use. No one of sufficient intelligence to judge of the merits of a speller can examine the one it is the misfortune of our pupils to have in their hands without pronouncing it unfit for use. An example or two will illustrate what is meant by the criticism. In one of the first exercises for primary work are these words: van, ban, con, wan. In another exercise we find caw, jaw, law, maw, paw, raw, saw. In the first case words beyond the comprehension of the pupil, and yet children just commencing to use the speller are required to learn words which have no signification whatever to them. In the next exercise the aim of the author seems to be to group together all the words of three letters having the same final sound. Is it strange that scholars are dull and listless in the study of the spelling book? It isn’t in the nature of the child to be interested in an abstract thing, and it is wholly wrong to waste the school hours in dawdling over a speller so full of words without meaning to the child. If there were no better spellers the case would not seem so aggravating, but there are several spellers which are far superior to that used in the outside schools. In the village schools
change has been made and the efficiency of the work in spelling has been much increased. It may be best to make a change in the rest of the town the coming year.

As to the methods of spelling, oral and written should be combined. As soon as the pupils are able to write legibly, the words should be written, but not to lose sight of oral work. When properly conducted, oral spelling is one of the best exercises for securing correct pronunciation, and the teacher should always bear this in mind, none the less when the pupil is spelling the word than when the teacher himself pronounces it.

**WRITING.**

One of our best educators styles writing as among the "lost arts." However this may be it is certainly a neglected art. In only one or two districts has writing been successfully taught the past year. In the village schools there has been great progress in writing, which to be entirely satisfactory needs only to be practised in all the written exercises required in the work of the schools. When a pupil is taught to write in a copy book under the direction of teachers according to the rules of penmanship, the value of such instruction may be questioned when the same pupils are not required to follow the same rules in all they write. In our opinion this is the only way in which to secure good penmanship.

In no school should there be more than two classes in writing, except what the little folks may require; and better work could be done with only one class. There should not be more than two grades of copy books, Nos. 4 and 5. If these only should be used, and 15 to 30 minutes per day devoted to a general exercise in writing, our boys and girls would soon show the benefit of their instruction. We would urge parents and all interested in the education of the children of Farmington to assist in securing better results in the art of penmanship. In some schools pupils have gone so far as to express an unwillingness to do this kind of work. We hope there may be nothing of the sort in future.

**LANGUAGE.**

In several schools the importance of the correct use of language by teachers and pupils has been—we have sometimes thought—almost forgotten. When teachers are heedless themselves it is not strange that the pupils become so. We have frequently called the attention of teachers to this fault and they have become more careful in consequence. No pupil should be allowed to use language incorrectly without correction, not as a reproof or criticism, but for the purpose of teaching him how to use the language properly. Teachers should always require
complete sentences from their pupils and never allow gestures, nods or inarticulate words in place of the same. It is folly to teach grammar in any form when its precepts are not practiced in all the school exercises.

SCHOOL STATISTICS AND SCHOOL WORK.

In presenting the following statements of work, etc., of the several districts in town we have omitted comments on the individual teachers, feeling that it would be difficult to do all justice. Those who desire to know our estimate of teachers and their work are referred to the record book kept by the Committee, which may be examined by any who wish.

In the whole town on the 1st of April, 1877, there were 1035 pupils, against 1029 last year.

DIST. No. 1. FALLS, UNION WITH CHESTERVILLE. Thomas Williams, Agent. 47 pupils in Farmington; money to be expended this year, $165.09. Summer term taught by Myra Beedy of Phillips; length of school ten weeks; attendance 39; average attendance, 82 per ct.; wages, $5 50 week; board, $2. Winter term taught by C. F. Packard of Farmington—now in session. This school has wall maps, a globe, writing charts, and plenty of blackboard room. The district has voted to sell the present school building, and contemplates erecting a new one, which will, we hope, be the pride of the village, and one in every way suited to the health, comfort and convenience of the pupils.

No. 2. GOWER DIST. Josiah Brown, Agent. 15 pupils; money to be expended, $108.95. Summer and winter terms taught by Carrie Craig of Farmington; length of summer term, 7 weeks; attendance, 12; average attendance, 12; wages, $2 50 per week; board, $2.00. Winter term, 10 weeks; attendance 14; average attendance, 70 per ct.; wages, $5; board, $2.

DIST. No. 3. NORTON FLAT. S. B. Norton, Agent. 73 scholars; money to be expended, $341.60. Summer and fall term taught by Love M. Norton of Farmington; summer term 9 weeks; attendance, 41; average attendance, 76 per ct.; wages, $5 50 week; board, $2. Fall term continued 8 weeks; attendance, 36; average attendance, 68 per ct.; wages, $5 50; board, $2. Winter term is being taught by G. W. Norton of Farmington; now in session. This school, during the last two years, has had the advantages of the continuous work of two teachers only, making greater progress than otherwise could have been obtained. The greatest present need in this district is a school house large enough to accommodate all the scholars, while the present room does not convene one half the scholars.
in the district. The citizens of this district feel this need, and are taking measures to meet the demand. We hope that during the present year this want may be fully supplied.

No. 4. VILLAGE DISTRICT. D. W. Pratt, Agent. 363 scholars; money to be expended, $1634 76. Teachers: High School, J. A. Greene, principal,—Addie L. Tuck, Asst., spring term; Grammar School, Martha B. Wyman (spring term), Villa A. Cushman (fall and winter terms); Intermediate School, Lizzie R. Ellis (spring and fall terms); Primary School, Lottie Lyde (spring term), Emma C. McGaffey (fall and winter terms). In addition to the school money the district raised $300 by taxation to be expended under the Free High School law. Wages of teachers: Principal, $100 per month; grammar and intermediate, $10 per week; primary, $9 per week. Length of school, 32 weeks. Most of the school rooms are supplied with maps and other necessary apparatus.

At the close of the Spring term the school gave an entertainment, the proceeds of which, about $24, were applied to the purchase of the organ in the hall. For other and particular wants of the school reference is made to the report of the principal.

One year ago the new school building was occupied by 200 pupils in charge of a principal and three assistant teachers, forming a union school of four grades under the direct supervision of the principal. The difficulty of organizing such a school and successfully operating it cannot be understood without careful inspection. We think the Farmington Union School is the only one of its kind in the State, where pupils of all grades are under the same roof, governed by the same principal, and to all intents forming only one school, yet in its respective rooms doing the work of primary, intermediate, grammar and high school. The arrangement of the building is such that other than a union school could be run with great difficulty; and while there were many who doubted the wisdom of a union school in Farmington, now that we have such a school well organized, well disciplined, and earnestly working, teachers and pupils in one accord under the direction of a competent principal, these doubts have been dispelled, and we cannot now quite understand how we could afford any other than a union school. The plan of the union school is very simple. A principal is at the head of the whole school. In each grade of schools below the high, is an assistant teacher, responsible to the principal for the government of her school, and doing the work prescribed by the principal. The principal controls the movements of each school by the ringing of his bell, calling it to order, dismissing it or otherwise, as he may desire. The school assembles daily in the hall, and is brought as a whole immedi-
ately into the presence of the principal and under his control.

The teachers are of the opinion that when for a single day general exercise in the hall is omitted, their schools are not as easily controlled in their respective rooms. Marching in order at the call of the principal from the hall to their several rooms is of such importance that the schools are well begun for the day's work when this is the opening exercise. In accomplishing the organization of the school the present principal and his assistants have shown a zeal worthy of the cause, and have accomplished in results what only earnestness of purpose, qualification and executive power can do. In proof of this it is only necessary to refer to the present condition of the school. Special attention is invited to the report of the principal, and the recommendations he has made, all of which are of importance to the welfare of the schools and village.

In grading the school at the commencement of the year it was impossible to find enough pupils sufficiently advanced to form a good high school, i.e., sufficiently advanced to pursue high school studies, and consequently the work done in the high school for the first term was mostly that belonging to the Grammar School studies. The present term, in consequence of the large number of pupils in the primary school, it was thought best to promote one class, through the schools. This done, the primary school is left with full seats and no room to spare. The next term this room will be crowded again unless the district shall furnish another school room, and this they should do. With 70 or 75 pupils of the primary grade it is impossible for any teacher to do satisfactory work, and this is just what our primary school has been suffering from the last year. The promotion of about 20 from this school has afforded a temporary relief, but in doing this the high school has been filled up by the necessary promotion from the grammar school. The work as laid out before the change was all that could be done by the several teachers, and the promotion necessitated the employment of an assistant teacher in the high school. These classes that have been promoted have not completed the work as laid down in the course of study for the several schools from which they were taken, and will not before the close of next term. Great progress has been made by all the classes; the schools are all well governed and the classes in earnest.

The Franklin 5th Reader was introduced last year in the high school. The present term Monroe's Practical Speller was introduced, and last term Allen & Greenough's Latin Grammar, Nordhoff's Politics, for Young America, Norton's Elements of Physics, and Bryant & Stratton's Book-Keeping have also been introduced. The former replaced
other books that were in use, but in the case of the latter, new books of some kind were needed by the pupils, and the Committee after careful examination adopted those mentioned, and they were supplied to the pupils at introduction prices by arrangements made with the publishers.

It is a source of congratulation that our schools are in such excellent condition at this time, but there is still need of "patient endurance in well doing." This only will insure to our people a good system of schools and all its consequent blessings. While some regret the expense of sustaining our schools, censure the friends of public schools for their zeal in the cause, and deny the advantages of popular education, it should be remembered that the richest behest the parent can give the child is the preparation for life which a good, careful education only develops in the child himself. Herein lies the safety of our country in future years, and it is a poor economy which ignores the advantages of public schools, while it recognizes the necessity of the prison and reformatory institutions.

REPORT OF PRINCIPAL.

Gentlemen of the S. S. Committee:

Dear Sirs,—In compliance with your request I herewith submit to you some general statements regarding the Farmington Union School, which has been under my charge during the past year.

With a new house, new teachers, and new habits of work therewith introduced, much was to be learned, both by pupils and instructors. A much larger number of pupils than ever before were gathered together in one building; they were associated together on the playground and on their way to and from school; all were assembled in one room each morning for devotional exercises; and each Wednesday afternoon all participated in miscellaneous exercises conducted also in the hall. Thus all the pupils have been brought under one central government, have all been allowed the same privileges, and have been subject to the same restrictions.

A general disposition has been manifested by the pupils to do the best they could to learn the new ways, to obey the new rules; and, in short, to second the efforts being put forth to bring the school up to the standard which its friends wish to see it occupy.

Much honest work has been done, with what results I leave you to judge, as you are well prepared to do from your thorough acquaintance with the workings of the school as you have seen it in your frequent visits.
I beg leave to call your attention to several matters which are, I believe, of vital importance to the welfare of the school. First, irregularity of attendance. The habit of staying away occasionally half-day without sufficient cause is one that is difficult to break up. It seems to me that parents can hardly realize the importance of their children forming habits of punctuality and regularity while in school: if they did, teachers would be troubled much less by inexcusable absences than they are now. I would urge, then, upon parents the grave responsibility which rests upon them, of requiring their children to be constant in their attendance at school, even though at times it be at their own personal inconvenience. In addition to the importance of the formation of correct business habits of regularity (for attending school is the beginning of the child's business life), I will simply mention another incentive to constant attendance. No pupil can be absent from a single recitation without suffering a loss.

During our present mid-winter term the primary room has been so crowded that a general promotion, at least two terms premature, had to be resorted to in order that the numbers might be reduced to the seating capacity of that room. The rooms are now full, and the constant additions to the various grades, particularly the primary, will soon bring about crowded rooms as before, with no means of remedying the difficulty by promotion as was done before. This shows the immediate necessity of the completion of the building as was originally designed, by finishing and furnishing the room in the basement for the use of a lower primary grade.

Books for entertainment and instruction are needed in all the rooms. In the primary and intermediate rooms, books adapted to the understanding of the pupils would be of great use. They would supplement the instruction in reading and in the use of language; would incite thought in the eager minds otherwise either idle or misused, and would relieve the teacher by supplying profitable occupation for the children, thus removing most causes of disorder. In the grammar school, books which shall serve as works of reference as well as for culture and entertainment, should be introduced, in order that the habit of reading instructive literature shall be continued after its formation in the lower grades. The range of subjects, of course, ought to be enlarged to a degree corresponding to the advanced state of the pupils in that room. In the high school the immediate need is a cyclopedia of some sort; and since such a work will last many years, the best is probably the cheapest. Appleton's Cyclopedia might be procured, a few volumes each year, at a comparatively trivial expense, and would be of very great service both to pupils and teachers. The teacher constantly
desires to refer his class, or individual pupils, to some source of information more general and extended than his text-book. With a good cyclopedia this may be done; without it, all the pupils get in addition to the text of the lesson is supplied orally by the teacher. There are many pupils at present under my charge who would seize upon such matter with intense eagerness, had they the opportunity, thereby acquiring vastly more knowledge and culture than is possible now.

In addition to books of reference some simple scientific apparatus is an absolute necessity. An attempt is now made to teach the natural sciences. The pupils work hard and faithfully. But when we compare the knowledge which they now obtain with that which they might acquire with the proper apparatus, the present work seems, to say the least, very unsatisfactory. Apparatus is now made at far less cost than ever before. Many enterprising firms throughout the country are endeavoring to put the instruments essential to a thorough knowledge of the elements of science within the reach of all schools which make any pretensions to excellence. I am informed that the sum of one hundred dollars, judiciously expended, would probably put our school on a better basis for instruction in natural sciences than any similar school in the State.

Now then, have I mentioned anything not absolutely essential? Your thorough acquaintance with school work answers the question in the negative.

Cannot the necessary steps be taken to supply the school with the things mentioned?

I put it to the tax-payers of the district. Can you invest your money where it will yield better returns, than by placing your free public schools on such a plane that your children on leaving them may be able to take honorable places in society, in business, and in all the relations of life?

Very respectfully,

J. A. Greene.

Farmington, Me., Feb. 23, 1878.
less than six different teachers in the past two years. Much more would have been accomplished, had only one or two of the teachers been employed. By this we do not wish to speak disparagingly of the work done by either of the teachers who have taught in this district in the past year. This district will not receive the full benefit of their money so long as this plan is continued, however good the teachers may be.

No. 6. GAY DISTRICT. Joseph W. Billings, Agent. No. of scholars, 11; money to be expended, $76 10. Summer term taught by Lucy M. Sewall of Farmington; length of term, 6 weeks; attendance, 4; average attendance, 88 per ct.; wages, $2; board, $2. Winter term taught by Nellie F. Townsend; length of term, 7 weeks; attendance, 5; average attendance, 94 per ct.; wages, $3; board, $2 50. There is good reason why this district should consolidate.

No. 7. SPRAGUE DISTRICT. Henry Sprague, Agent. 19 scholars; money to be expended this year, $123 26. Both terms taught by Miss Lizzie W. Titcomb of Farmington; length of summer term, 6 weeks; attendance, 15; average attendance, 91 per ct.; wages, $3 per week; board given by district. Length of the winter term, 15 weeks; attendance, 16; average attendance, 88 per ct.; wages, $4 per week; board, $1 75.

No. 8. CURRIER DIST. Elisha Bradford, Agent. No. of pupils, 13; money to be expended, $94 61; no summer term; taught in winter by E. W. Dixon; length of school, 10 ½ weeks; attendance, 14; average attendance, 92 per ct.; wages, $20; board, $1 50 per week. Apparatus, plenty of good blackboards.

DIST. No. 9. WEST FARMINGTON. Daniel Heath, Agent. 95 scholars; money expended, $418 07. Summer term taught by Juliette C. Haines of Farmington; attendance, 46; average attendance, 73 per ct.; length of school, 12 weeks; wages, $7; board, $2. Winter term taught by L. M. Perkins of Mechanic Falls, assisted by Lizzie S. J. Jewett of Farmington; length of school, 12 weeks; attendance, 50; average attendance, 80 per ct.; wages of principal, $45 per month; board, $3 75 per week; wages of assistant, including board, $4 per week. Apparatus, blackboards, globe and wall maps.

No. 10. SEWALL DIST. Menzor Doyen, Agent. Whole No. of scholars, 19; money to be expended, $121 23. Summer term taught by Eva L. Kempton of Strong; length of school, 10 weeks; whole number attending, 11; average attendance, 82 per ct.; wages, $3; board, $2. Winter term, same teacher; length of school, 13 weeks; attendance, 15; average attendance, 67 per ct.; wages, $4; board, $2. No. daily recitations, 25. Apparatus, a globe. We recommend that this district employ...
the same teacher next year. The parents of this district are interested in school matters, and their scholars are doing well.

No. 11. Greenwood District. Zina Greenwood, Agent. Whole number of scholars, 22; money to be expended, $176 12. Summer term taught by Lydia Gilman of Farmington; length of school, 9 weeks; attendance, 9; average attendance, 75 per ct.; wages, $2 70; board, $1 55. Winter term taught by F. F. Whittier of Farmington; length of school, 10 weeks; attendance, 17; average attendance, 81 per ct.; wages, $40; board, $2. No. daily recitations, 17. Apparatus, blackboard. The parents in this district appreciate good teachers, and they act up to it. The results are apparent.

No. 12. Knowlton's Corner. T. W. Gordon, Agent. No. of scholars, 26; money to be expended, $149 21. Summer term taught by Lizzie Craig of Farmington. Register not returned. Winter term taught during the first five weeks by E. N. Wheeler of Chesterville. Mr. Wheeler was obliged on account of sickness to resign. The school is now being taught by Miss M. E. Hamilton of Chesterville.

No. 13. Lord's Hill, formerly union with a Wilton district. 1 scholar; money to be expended, $19 02. A portion or all of this money was expended in No. 14. It should be united with that district.

No. 14. Briggs's District. E. B. Hunt, Agent. No. of scholars, 25; attendance, 15; average attendance, 87 per ct.; money to be expended, $105 69. Summer term taught by Lucy Wyman of Farmington; length of school, 8 weeks; wages, $4; board, $1 50. Winter term taught by Edward A. Hall of Chesterville; length of school, 8 weeks; attendance, 20; average attendance, 90 per ct.; wages, $20; board, $2 per week. Apparatus, blackboard. We would recommend the same teachers for the next year. The parents in this district are very much interested in school matters, and they exert themselves to procure and sustain good teachers.

No. 15. Russell's Mills. Charles Holley, Agent. Whole No. scholars, 28; money to be expended, $142 62. Taught in summer by Fannie W. Huse; length of school, 8 weeks; attendance, 22; average attendance, 90 per ct.; wages, $3; board, $1 50. Winter term taught by Love Norton. Register not returned.

No. 16. Porter Hill. William T. Ballard, Agent. No. of scholars, 23; money to be expended, $172 09. Summer term taught by Ruth A. Norton of Farmington; length of school, 10 weeks; attendance, 15; average attendance 80 per ct.; wages, $3; board, $1 50. No. daily recitations, 32. Winter term taught by E. P. Sanderson; length of school, 14\(\frac{1}{2}\) weeks; attendance, 18; average attendance, 67 per ct.; wages, $14 per
month; board, $1.50 per week. No. daily recitations, 32. The first class in this school is well advanced, but the parents are not as well united in school matters as we could wish.

No. 17. Bailey District. John Ames, Agent. 16 scholars; money to be expended this year, $92.23. Summer term taught by Miss Clara E. Dyer of New Sharon; length of school, 9 weeks; attendance, 14; average attendance, 57 per ct.; wages, $2 per week; board, $1.50. Winter term taught by Miss Rena H. Rogers of Industry; length of school, 7 weeks; attendance, 18; wages, $4 per week; board, $2. The term was lengthened several weeks by private subscriptions in the district. This district has no apparatus except blackboards.

No. 18. Titcomb District. J. W. Norton, Agent. 17 scholars; money to be expended this year, $122.63. Summer term taught by Mrs. Lizzie W. Cothren of Farmington; length of summer term, 9 weeks; attendance, 7; average attendance, 87 per ct.; wages, $2 per week; board, $2. Winter term taught by John W. Nichols of Farmington; length of term, 10 weeks; attendance, 14; average attendance, 90 per ct.; wages, $16 per month; board, $2 per week. The school house in this district has been repaired the last year by putting in a new floor, new seats and new windows, all of which added to the comfort of the pupils. School apparatus, blackboards and a few maps that have nearly outlived their usefulness, having been in service over twenty years.

No. 19. Mosher District. John J. Look, Agent. 23 scholars in district; money to be expended this year, $129.90. Lizzie N. Eaton of Farmington taught summer term; length of summer term, 6 weeks; attendance, 20; average attendance, 85 per ct.; wages, $4; board, $1. Fall and winter terms taught by Lillian E. Thurston; length of fall term, 12 weeks; attendance, 25; average attendance, 91 per ct. Winter term, attendance, 20; average attendance, 90 per ct.; wages, $4; board, $2. The school house has received a general repairing inside, having been furnished with a new floor, new seats, and new blackboards. The windows have been furnished with curtains and the wall neatly papered and decorated with appropriate mottoes (the latter a gift from their teacher, Miss Thurston), making a very comfortable and attractive school room. The money in district 29 was expended in this district where it properly belongs.

No. 20. Holley District. E. M. Preston, Agent. 21 scholars in district; money to be expended, $121.10. Summer term taught by Miss Lizzie N. Eaton of Farmington; length of term, 6 weeks; attendance, 8; average attendance, 94 per ct.; wages, $4; board, $1.90. Winter term taught by James H. Howse of New Sharon; length of school, 11½ weeks; attend-
ance, 15; average attendance 81 per ct.; wages, $20 per month; board, $2 per week. This district has three outline maps and a globe. The blackboards are small and poor. The house needs new seats so arranged as to give a chance for more blackboards.

No. 21. MERCHANT HOLLEY DISTRICT. David M. Spaulding, Agent. 9 scholars in district; money to be expended, $81 19; length of summer school, 6 weeks; attendance, 7; average attendance, 86 per ct.; wages, $3; board, $1 75. Both summer and fall terms were taught by Mrs. O. H. Morrow of Farmington. Fall term, 10 weeks; attendance, 10; average attendance, 72 per ct. Apparatus, blackboards and a few maps.

No. 22. WALTON'S MILLS. Leonard Morrison, Agent. No. of scholars, 34; money to be expended, $160 63. Taught in summer by Josie Thompson of Farmington; length of school, 8 weeks; attendance, 24; average attendance, 82 per ct.; wages, $3 50 per week; board, $1 45. Winter term taught by Mellen Hayes of Farmington—now in session.

No. 23. Union with North Chesterville. Agent and school house in Chesterville this year. 26 scholars in Farmington; money to be expended this year, $99 30.

No. 24. SWIFT DISTRICT. Union with New Sharon. School house in New Sharon. 4 scholars in Farmington; money to be expended, $25 29.

No. 25. FURBUSH DISTRICT. Union with Wilton. 8 scholars. School house in Wilton. Money to be expended, $37 65.

No. 26. Dennis H. Smith is the only one residing in the district. 2 scholars; money to be expended, $11 14.

No. 28. CRAIG DISTRICT. 2 scholars in district; money to be expended this year, including back money, $36 09.

No. 29. L. NORTON DISTRICT. 5 scholars; money to be expended this year, $25 95. This was expended in No. 19 this year.

No. 30. HILLMAN DISTRICT. G. A. Spear, Agent. 8 scholars; money to be expended this year, $44 41. This district had only one term of school, taught by Flora E. Stevens of Industry. Length of term, 7 weeks; attendance, 5; average, 82 per ct.; wages, $3 50; board, $2.

No. 31. W. D. McINTOSH DISTRICT. Union with New Sharon. 3 scholars; money to be expended this year, $15 62.
ROLL OF HONOR.

This includes pupils not absent one half day, as returned by teachers.


No. 11. Summer term. Emilie Greenwood.


No. 15. Summer term. Sadie Tuck, Arabell Stevens, Elery Bangs, David Fales, Walter Holley, Jerome Holley, Cora Stevens, Frank Thompson, Will Holley.


## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>State School Fund</td>
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All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. R. VOTER,  
HIRAM TITCOMB,  
D. H. KNOWLTON,  

Farmington, Feb. 20, 1878.