1879

Annual Reports of the Selectmen and Superintending School Committee of the Town of Farmington, for the Year Ending February 20th, 1879

Farmington (Me.).

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ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

SELECTMEN

AND

Superintending School Committee,

OF THE

TOWN OF FARMINGTON,

FOR

The Year Ending February 20th,

1879

FARMINGTON:


1879.
Selectmen's Annual Report.

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 Feb. 20th, 1878, to Feb. 20th, 1879.

After taking an inventory of the real and personal estate, we found the valuation of the town to be fifteen hundred and sixty-one thousand five hundred and twenty dollars ($1,561,520), and the number of polls to be eight hundred and sixty-seven (867).

Upon the polls and estates, we have assessed the following named sums, viz.:

For State tax, .......................... $5802 47
County tax, ................................ 1931 64
Support of schools, ......................... 2610 00
Support of poor, .......................... 1800 00
Repairs on roads and bridges, ........... 4000 00
To pay town charges, ...................... 1500 00
To pay orders on interest, .............. 1000 00
To pay interest on indebtedness, .......... 1200 00
Repairing large bridges, ................. 500 00
Observance of “Memorial Day,” ........ 100 00
Overlays, .................................. 881 10

$21,325 21

On the 20th day of July, 1878, we committed lists of said assessments unto R. Hanley Smith, esq., collector of said town.

We subsequently committed a supplemental assessment to said collector, amounting to the sum of seventy-five dollars ($75.00), making the total amount committed to the collector, twenty-one thousand four hundred dollars and twenty-one cents (21,400.21), and the number of polls, twenty three, making total number of polls eight hundred and ninety (890).
Treasurer's Statement,

For the Year commencing Feb. 20th, 1878, and ending Feb. 20th, 1879.

Dr.

To paid for School orders,  
  Town orders,  
  Coupons,  
  Interest on town orders,  
  Soldiers' pensions,  
  Non-resident taxes not paid,  
  Cash in the treasury,  

$4095.06  
14669.07  
375.00  
691.57  
48.00  
190.33  
25.89

$20,095.52

Cr.

By cash in treasury Feb. 20th, 1878,  
By received for town orders sold at 4 and 5 per cent., to take 
  up orders paying 6 per cent.,  
By received of Daniel Beale, collector for 1877,  
  A. T. Tuck, collector for 1876,  
  R. Hanley Smith, collector for 1878,  
  State school fund and mill tax,  
  State railroad tax,  
  State soldiers' pensions,  
  Liquor agents,  
  For license,  
  For old bridge timber,  
  Town of Eustis,  
  Town of Fairfield,  
  Town of Levant,  
  Town of Kingfield,  
  Town of Strong,  
  A. Currier, interest on school fund, .  
  For tax deeds,  
  On notes of A. Currier, C. D. Sewall, and others,  
Non-resident taxes, due Feb. 20th, 1878,  
By received of non-resident taxes D. Beale, collector, 1877,  
  Fine, collected,  
Taxes collected in school district, No. 4, to pay orders  
  paid by town for free high school in said district in  
  1877, in part,  

3035.25  
6895.21  
1051.18  
4745.42  
1612.07  
15.48  
48.00  
390.59  
10.00  
2.50  
66.00  
76.66  
37.50  
1.75  
44.35  
112.00  
275.76  
403.11  
97.27  
215.00  
50

$20,098.52

P. P. Tufts, Treasurer
Expenditures.

Paid School bills, $4095 06
Andrew T. Tuck, services as collector for 1876, 19 74
P. P. Tufts, " " town treasurer for 1877, 75 00
Benj. Goodwin, " " selectman for 1877, 161 48
Z. H. Greenwood, " " " " 1877, 152 75
C. B. Russell, " " " " 1877, 156 50
I. Warren Merrill, " " town clerk for 1877, 10 00
John R. Voter, " " S. S. committee for 1877, 49 75
D. H. Knowlton, " " " " 1877, 47 00
Hiram Titcomb, " " " " 1877, 45 75
D. H. Knowlton for rent of selectmen's office, 40 00
Joseph S. Craig for rent of Town hall, 40 00
R. B. Jennings for care of Town hall, 5 00
Insane Hospital for support of Mariah Norris, Phebe J. Orr, Phebe Hiscock, Martha Bailey and Olive Ann Richardson, 419 94
For support of Jesse Hiscock and family, 179 83
For support of James Foot and wife, 109 33
For support of Mrs. Daggett and daughter, 83 16
For support of the Nutting children, 69 07
For support of Robert Hannaford, 47 00
Wm. F. Cilley for house-rent for Rueben Hosmer, 60 00
For support of Jasper Wendall and family, 44 95
T. H. Adams for coffin, etc., for Rodrick child, 7 50
J. C. Church for drawing stone and removing bridge timber, 2 50
For support of A. M. Welch's children and wife, 123 74
For support of Wm. P. Huff and grandchildren, 62 50
For support of B. R. Avery and charged to Fairfield, 66 17
For support of Benj. Jennings and family, 36 66
For support of Emulus Fuller, charged town of Eustis, 66 00
For support of Daniel Perkin's family for rent, 30 00
W. W. Whitney for taking Phebe J. Orr, pauper of Phillips, to Insane Hospital, 8 00
For support of Wm. Stewart, 7 57
For support of L. M. Lowell and charged to Chesterville, 10 40
For support of Richard Abbott, 11 23
For support of Mrs. Lydia B. Fredericks, charged to Starks, 29 60
For support of Rebecca Wood and same paid by Kingfield, 2 00
For support of wife of Geo. Hamlin and children; 54 79
For support of Freeman Berry and family, charged to Madrid, 19 06
For support of David Hamblin, 26 50
For incidental pauper bills, 83 59
Paid for support of Sophia Foster, French woman, 30.00
Order to Dr. P. Dyer for examination of Phebe Jane Orr, 3.00
Order to Dr. F. H. Russell for “ “ “ “ “ 3.00
Order to Sylvanus Knowlton for support of Daniel Witham and Jerusha Howes, 100.00
Order to Sylvanus Knowlton for balance contract for support of D. Witham, Jerusha Howes and D. Rosс for 1877, 126.89
Order to Moses Farmer for killing two dogs, 1.00
For support of tramps, 29.45
For support of Elisha Tripp, 52.50
Order to D. H. Knowlton for books furnished children of J. Hiscock, J. Gilbert and Tardy, 6.78
Order to T. McL. Davis for supplies furnished J. A. Adams, charged to the town of Strong, 6.50
Order to Jos. Pomeroy for removing a dead horse, and charged to James Grounder, 2.00
Order to Z. H. Greenwood for trip to Monmouth, taking deposition in the Day case, 6.75
Order to Clofus Gognoy for damage on sheep, 1.25
Order to E. Greenwood for iron scraper, etc., 1.70
Order to E. S. Bragg for labor in full on Fairbanks bridge, 3.90
Order to Moses Farmer for labor removing old timber of Fairbanks bridge from river, 75.00
Order to Chauncy Bangs for wood for selectmen’s office, 5.30
Order to Henry Manter, abatement on taxes, 1877, 3.00
Order to C. W. Keyes, printing, 1875, 1876, 1877, 74.50
Order to B. F. Morrill for drawing stone for culvert, 1875, 16.00
Order to T. Williams for 932 plank for Williams bridge, 9.32
Order to Geo. W. Ranger for lumber, Fairbanks bridge, 77, 19.92
Order to Martha Wendall for damage on sidewalk, 100.00
Order to S. D. Perham for balance on contract on road in ’77, 35.00
Order to A. T. Tuck for real estate sold for taxes, 1876, 59.94
Order to C. W. Keyes, printing brief, Weld vs. Farmington, 71.25
Order to Clark & Richards for cash paid for drain pipe, 50.00
Order to P. P. Tufts for cash paid for “ Memorial Day,” 100.00
Order to cash paid for books and stationery, 11.25
Order to H. W. Barden for lighting Falls bridge from July 10, 1877, to July 10, 1878, 9.00
Order to Baker & Baker for legal services on Crocker case, Weld vs. Farmington, 175.00
Order to E. I. Morse for 96 feet granite for crossing, 9.60
Order to D. H. Knowlton for books and stationery, 20.05
Paid Order to J. R. Norton for building culvert, 10 00
Order to A. T. Tuck for damage in full for washout near Mrs. Ellis' and Mrs. Johnson's, 7 50
Order to R. Hanley Smith for discount at 5 per ct. on $8104.37 taxes for the year 1878, 405 21
Order to R. Hanley Smith for discount at 3 per ct. on $2468.59 taxes for the year 1878, 47 05
Order to J. C. Church for building new road near Fair ground, 60 00
Order to J. C. Holman for certified copies report case of Weld vs. Farmington, 40 00
Order to E. L. Home for bridge signs, 4 00
Order to Willard Stoddard for filling road near Centre bridge, as per contract, 25 00
Order to C. W. Keyes for advertising non-resident taxes, 8 00
Order to Bradford & Smith for building bridge near N. C. Greenwood, 153 00
Order to Hayes & Corbett for building Case bridge as per contract, 61 50
Order to Herman Corbett, damage to land, 2 00
Order to A. J. Dodge for building bridge east Center bridge, 61 50
Order to J. F. Prescott for lumber to build bridge near J. C. Stewart, 22 37
Order to J. S. Craig for filling road on contract, 10 00
Order to P. P. Tufts for cash paid Elias Field in case of Weld vs. Farmington, 605 05
Order to Dr. P. Dyer, damage on carriage, 4 95
Order to George Gower, damage on wagon, 4 00
Order to H. W. Lowell for supplies furnished S. D. Grover, charged to Avon, 31 06
Joseph S. Wendell for lanterns and lighting bridge, 30 85
J. W. Morrill, snowing bridge for 1877; 2 50
For repairs of large bridges for 1878, 296 44
Collector for abatement on taxes for 1876, 192 27
" " 1877; 8 00
Abatements on sundry taxes, 1878, 49 57
Order to A. T. Tuck for road order taken up, 107 90
Order to Daniel Beale for road order taken up, 2071 86
Order to R. Hanley Smith for road order taken up, 2744 71
Order for cement, etc., for Fairbanks bridge, 1877; 24 56
Order for labor on roads for the year 1877, 6 83
Paid Order to D. H. Knowlton for cost on petition to change road on Quebec street,
Order to S. C. Belcher for legal services,
Order to C. D. Sewall and others for watering tabs,
Order to Russell and Perkins, perambulating town lines,
Order to P. P. Tufts for cash paid for interest on orders,
Order for coupons,
Order for pensions,

\[ \$16,106.77 \]

**Expenses for Support of Paupers.**

Your Overseers of the Poor contracted with Sylvanns Knowlton for the support of Daniel Witham and Jerusha Howes, from April 1st, 1878, to April 1st, 1879, \$154 00

Paid Insane Hospital for support of Martha Bailey, Mariah Norris, Phebe Hiscock, Olive Ann Richardson, and Phebe J. Orr, 419 94

For the support of A. M. Welch's wife and children, 123 74

Contracted with Selden Knowlton to keep Willie Wendell from April 1st, 1878, to April 1st, 1879, 26 00

Miscellaneous pauper bills, 937 47

Estimated cost of pauper bills not contracted for from Feb. 20th, 1879, to April 1st, 1879, 100 00

\[ \$1,760.15 \]

**Farmington Liquor Agency.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dr.</th>
<th>A. E. DOLBIER, Agent.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 20th, 1879.</td>
<td>Cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To stock on hand April 22d, 1878, $295 29</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Liquors bought of E. P. Chase from April 22d, '78, to Feb. 20th, '79, 1107 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Express on liquors, 28 31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salary paid A. E. Dolbier, 125 00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profits from April 22d, '78, to Feb. 20th, '79, 304 21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$1,859.91</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By amount received for sales of liquors from April 22d, 1878, to Feb. 20th, 1879, \$1599 41

Sales of empty bbls. and casks, 35 50

Liquors on hand Feb. 20, 1879, 225 00

\[ \$1,859.91 \]

We received of E. Gerry for liquors sold ending April 22, 1878, and paid into the Town treasury June 1, 1878, \$211 70.
Appropriations and Expenditures.

The Town appropriated March 4th, 1878:

For support of schools—Town, $2610 00
For support of schools—Mill tax, 1002 14
For support of schools—State school fund, 559 93
For support of schools—Town school fund, 112 00

$4334 07

Expended for cash paid for school orders $4095 60

For support of the poor, $1800 00

Expended for cash paid Insane Hospital, $419 94
  cash paid for all other paupers, 1455 95

$1875 89

For defraying town charges, $1500 00

Expended for town officers for year ending Mar. 4, '78, $688 23
  cost on legal suit, Weld vs. Farmington, 1037 30
  cash paid for sundry orders, 381 81

$2107 34

For the payment of orders on interest, $1000 00

Expended for cash paid for order taken up, $300 00
  cash paid for order taken up, 100 00
  cash paid for order taken up, 500 00

$900 00

For to pay interest on orders and bonds, $1200 00

Expended for cash paid for interest on orders, $691 57
  cash paid for coupons on bonds, 375 00

$1066 57

For roads and bridges, $4000 00

Expended for roads, $5164 10

For large bridges, $500 00

Expended for large bridges, $702 10

For abatement on taxes, $000 00

Expended for abatement on taxes, 1876, $203 84
  abatement on taxes, 1878, 49 00

$252 84
For discount on taxes, $000 00

Expended for discount on $8104 37, at 5 per cent., $405 21
   discount on $2468 59, at 3 per cent., 74 05
   ________________________________ $479 25

For "Memorial day," $100 00

Expended for "Memorial day," $100 00

   Bonded debt — when due:
   Bonds due April, 1882, $1750 00
   Bonds due October, 1884, 700 00
   Bonds due April, 1887, 5550 00
   ________________________________ $8000 00

   Town orders — when due:
   Due 1879, $6280 00
   Due 1880, 2308 00
   Due 1881, 2575 75
   Due 1882, 4401 00
   Due 1884, 1000 00
   ________________________________ $16,504 75

Resources of the Town.

Amount in the hands of the collector for 1876, $50 00
   "  "  "  1877, 1804 99
   "  "  "  1878, 8920 68
   Due from the town of Castine, 9 00
   "  "  "  Chesterville, 25 25
   "  "  "  Starks, 29 50
   "  "  "  Madrid, 19 06
   "  "  "  Phillips, 50 00
   "  "  "  for interest on school fund, 95 75
   In the hands of treasurer, non-resident taxes, 190 24
   On real estate sold for taxes, 135 24
   Due from D. H. and Joel Hobart, 107 00
   "  on bondsman's note, Alvin Currier and others, 69 19
   "  on bondsman's note, C. D. Sewall and others, 30 02
   In the hands of the Town treasurer for tax titles,
   "  "  "  cash, 59 94
   "  "  "  25 89
   ________________________________ $11,622 44
Liabilities.

Interest bearing town orders drawing 6 per cent. interest, $ 600 00
Interest bearing town orders drawing 5 per cent. interest, 14339 75
Town orders not on interest, awaiting payment by treasurer, 102 52
School orders not on interest, awaiting payment by treasurer, 220 01
Amount due the several districts, balance undrawn, 1403 57
Interest bearing town orders drawing 4 per cent. interest, 1625 00
Bonded debt drawing 5 per cent. interest, 8000 00
For interest on bonded debt and town orders, 200 00

$26,490 85

Deduct Resources of the Town, 11,622 44

Present Indebtedness of the Town, $14,868 41

Estimates

For Town Officers' Bills for the year ending March 3d, 1879.

C. B. Russell for services as selectman, $156 00
F. C. Perkins " " 153 00
Wm. B. Gilman " " 140 00
P. P. Tufts " Town treasurer, 50 00
I. W. Merrill " " clerk, 10 00
Superintending school committee, 142 50

Estimates for the Ensuing Year.

For Support of schools, $2610 00
Support of poor, 1800 00
Defraying town charges, 1800 00
Paying interest on town's indebtedness, 1200 00
Roads and small bridges, 6000 00
Contingent fund (for large bridges), 1000 00
Paying outstanding indebtedness (in part), 1000 00
Building over covered part of Center bridge, 1400 00

$16,810 00

All of which is respectfully submitted.

C. B. RUSSELL,
F. C. PERKINS,
W. B. GILMAN,

Selectmen of the Town of Farmington.
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Superintending School Committee.

Citizens of Farmington:—

Having attended to the duties of the office, your Superintending School Committee herewith present their annual report for your consideration.

SCHOOL VISITS.

During the year every school has been visited once, some of them twice, and some of them more than twice. In some cases this year the committee have considered it necessary to make frequent visits, and circumstances beyond their control have rendered that necessary. We are confident from our inspection of the schools, that they have been benefitted by these visits. In several instances, the work of visitation was fruitless, not from the neglect or indifference of your committee, but from the incompetency of the teacher in charge of the school. When our cities find it profitable to employ for the work of supervision the best talent they can secure for this work alone, at liberal salaries, we can but conclude that we do not have any more supervision than is needed. When the interests of every employer require that there shall be close and constant inspection over his workmen, not only to keep the laborer at work, but to see that the work is done as it ought to be, does not the well being of society demand that the teacher under whose instruction we place our children shall be constantly under the direction of some supervising power? When the first requirements of the agent is a low price, the demand for frequent visitations will increase and cost of supervision will be greater. Let agents put the quality first and then make the price.

WORK OF AGENTS.

We are glad to say that most of the agents have endeavored to procure good teachers and to have good schools, and in most cases their efforts have been appreciated and successful. An agent who does not exercise himself about his school, should never be elected a second time.
COST OF SUPERVISION.

The expense of supervision is not fixed by the town authorities, nor by the committee, but is determined by the Statutes, which are as follows upon this subject:

"Superintending school committees and supervisors shall be paid for their services, on satisfying the municipal officers that they have made the returns to the State superintendent of common schools required by law, one dollar and fifty cents a day and all necessary traveling expenses, and no more unless ordered by the town."

In 1877, the committee’s bills were $142.50. The last supervisor on the same basis, charged the town $157. The amount necessarily varies from year to year according to the work done, but has always been somewhat less than $150.

THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

It is a source of congratulation to know that there is in town a feeling in favor of reducing the number of districts. In last year’s report your attention was called to the comparative expense of running schools in large and small districts. The illustrations there cited show first the inequality as to the length of schools in large and small districts, and secondly the extravagance of the small schools. Last year on recommendation of the municipal officers and the committee, No. 29 was annexed to No. 19, increasing the size of No. 19, and leaving in town one district less. No. 28 (Craig district), was annexed to Allen’s Mills district, where the scholars can best be accommodated. There are several other changes that ought to be made if the interests of the town are considered, and your committee would urge as a matter of economy as many consolidations as possible. In Union district, No. 24, the school-house which was situated in New Sharon, has been burnt. There are only a few scholars in this district, and the school has necessarily been short. We cannot urge the building of a new school-house, but we would recommend that the district be consolidated with Nos. 1 and 2. The children would then have longer schools, and it would be more economical for the town.

The district known as Lord’s Hill, contains only a few scholars; has no organization or school of its own. It ought to be consolidated with the Briggs and Furbush districts, and your committee would urge this action.

SCHOOL-HOUSES.

The estimated value of all the public school property in town, is now over $16,000,—an increase of $7000 since 1873. The property in the village district is estimated at $10,000, in Norton district, $1500, in the Falls district, about $1000, leaving only $3500 as the
estimated value of the school property in all the other districts. At the Falls, the building is situated on a lot in the central part of the village and with the lot possesses considerable value, but unfortunately that value is commercial rather than educational. A building more unfit for a school-house could hardly be found. It is low posted, poorly ventilated, and uncomfortable, if not positively unhealthy to all its inmates. The location of the school-house is also unfavorable. Situated immediately on the street, where every noise and tumult can be heard; under the best of teachers, the school must suffer more or less in consequence of its proximity to the business of the place. Last year the district voted to sell the present school property, purchase a new lot and proceed to the erection of a new school-house. A committee was chosen to act in the matter, but for some reason unknown to us the school property has not been sold, nor so far as we can learn have any measures been taken to secure the erection of a new school-house. By the sale of the present school property the district would realize enough to defray a large part of the expense of purchasing a suitable lot and erecting a new building which shall be adapted to the wants of the school. This school is now one of the largest and most important in town, and should have all the advantages which its size and locality demand. Will the people of Farmington Falls see to it?

GENERAL DISCIPLINE.

In some parts of the town the general discipline of the schools has been defective, and your committee this year have had more to do in this direction than usual. This is due to a variety of causes. In the first place some agents have employed teachers who have proved themselves to be incompetent. In the next place, parents have allowed or encouraged their children too much in wrong doing, and their children have become the sufferers, and in several instances been removed from school by the committee. There are many in town old and young who have grown up in the belief that the "old school house" suffers from no abuse, whether kicks or blows. This idea is wholly wrong, and should be removed. A public building of any kind is more sacred than private because it is public. In one instance your committee ascertained that the school property had been injured, and the agent was requested to collect damages, which he did according to law. It is the duty of every citizen to use his influence to protect our school-houses, churches and other public buildings from the ravages of the jack-knife, shot-gun, missile, or other cause. We hope in future there will be nothing of the sort in town. We would call attention to the following extracts from the school laws of the State, section 90, page 37:—
If a minor injures or aids in injuring any school-house, out-building, utensils or appurtenances belonging thereto; defaces the walls, benches, seats, or other parts of said buildings by marks, cuts, or otherwise; or injures or destroys any property belonging to a school district, such district by its agent or committee, may recover of his parent or guardian, in an action of debt, double the amount of damages occasioned thereby."

COURSE OF STUDY.

At a recent meeting of the Franklin County Educational Association, a course of study was discussed and recommended for adoption in the ungraded schools of the county. The course of study covers only a portion of the subjects usually studied in the common schools, and we most heartily endorse it and recommend its perusal to all interested in the common schools.

Reading.—The reading should not be beyond the fourth reader. Pupils should be taught to read first, second, third and fourth readers, with appropriate emphasis and inflection so distinctly as to be perfectly understood by an examiner with book in hand, to spell words occurring therein, and to converse intelligently upon the subject matter of the lessons. It is suggested that oral and written examinations upon the preceding lessons be given, also, lessons in script reading.

Writing.—Pupils should write fifteen minutes, at least, every day, using pen and ink if possible with older pupils. When ink cannot be used, write with pencil and paper, or with slate and pencil.

Arithmetic.—Pupils should be taught the fundamental principles of Arithmetic so that they can add, subtract, multiply and divide rapidly and accurately. They should also be taught the following subjects: United States money, common and decimal fractions—excluding circulating decimals; and the following weights and measures: avoirdupois weight, long measure, square measure, cubic measure, time measure, dry measure and liquid measure. Practical and only practical applications of these tables should be made. Simple interest, bank discount, partial payments, profit and loss, insurance and taxes. Only such applications to percentage as actually occur in business, should be given. It is suggested that mental exercises should introduce each subject; that measurement of land, wood and the capacity of cisterns, bins, etc., should be drilled upon, and that no time be wasted upon arithmetical puzzles which do not illustrate principles common in actual business.

Language and Grammar.—Oral lessons in the use of language until ten years of age. From ten to fourteen years of age, some elementary work in grammar, as presented in such works as Miss Ludlow’s, Hadley’s, Swinton’s, or Quackenbos’ Language lessons. The study of grammar proper, from a textbook, ought not to be begun until the age of fourteen years, and then some brief work as Greene’s Elementary Grammar is sufficiently comprehensive.

Physiology.—The course in physiology should include: 1. Food substances, the proper kinds and the best modes of preparation. 2. Structure and functions of the digestive, circulating and respiratory organs, the skin and bones, with hygienic laws pertaining to each. 3. General structure and functions of the nervous system. 4. The subject of nutritious food properly prepared and properly eaten; thorough ventilation, unimpeded circulation, and a due proportion of mental and physical exercise, together with general rules for care of the sick, treatment of wounds, bruises, sprains and colds, should be given prominent place.
The Franklin County Educational Association recommend the foregoing outline course of study for the ungraded common schools of the county. The Association would urge the careful examination and adoption of the whole or a part of the prescribed course. It is also hoped that at the next meeting, due notice of which will be given, all the towns of the county will be well represented and will join in a hearty effort to improve our common schools.

THE VILLAGE SCHOOLS.

It is to be regretted that the funds of the district this year were insufficient to run the schools for a longer time. The term just closed was only six weeks, and at no time since the school has been organized were the teachers and pupils doing better work, and there is good reason for it. We have had few changes of teachers. Mr. Greene has been principal since its organization, and in only one case has a teacher worked for a single term. Much of the efficiency of the school is due to this fact, and it is a rule that should be adopted in all our schools. Secure first a competent teacher, and then retain the teacher as long as possible. We should be glad to call attention to the work done in the separate schools, but will only mention, and that only in part, the advanced studies pursued in the high school.

English Literature (reading and studying works of Scott, Dickens, Macaulay, Shakespeare), Civil Government, General History, English History, Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, Moral Philosophy, Physical Geography, Botany, Book-keeping, Algebra; Latin Grammar and Reader, Cæsar, Virgil.

It will be seen by this that our older pupils have not been idling away the 27 weeks they have passed at school. In selecting the higher studies for use in this school, great care has been taken to have only those studies pursued which were of practical importance in the business of life. In the classics, only Latin has been taught, and in this study only two classes—a portion of the time only one. The boys and girls in the high school need these higher studies to qualify them for the duties of life.

With our present school building, no other than a union school can possibly be profitably run in it. The high school is the centre of the system and must be sustained, or the lower schools would surely suffer. Your committee after a careful examination of many public schools in the State, are confident that four, or three, or even two independent schools in our building cannot be successfully run for any length of time. Then again there is no good reason why the 40 or 50 of our best pupils in the high school should be deprived of the education which our high school is just calculated to give them. They need it just as much as the children in the primary school need the education they are receiving. If anything they need it more, for they are just entering upon the responsibilities of active life, some
of them have only a term more to spend in school. One or two who were in the high school last term will probably never attend school again.

The present organization of the school is such that the discipline has been entirely in the hands of the principal, and when it is known that none of our people have entered any complaint since Mr. Greene has been in charge of the schools, it can be understood how fully the matter of discipline is in his hands. This is just where it should be, and 200 scholars of all grades cannot be governed more easily than by the principal of the high school. Previous to the erection of the new school house, each of the old schools required more police service of the committee in a single term of ten or twelve weeks, than they have had to render to all of our present schools combined the past two years.

There is no town in Maine that has, for the same money expended, schools that are equal to our union school. The high school is an essential part of the system, and in the interests of our children and the reputation of our village, we cannot afford to do without it. The State aid has been withdrawn for one year, but both the necessity and importance of the high school continue. Some have had a notion — although there is no reason for it whatever — that there will be no more high school, supposing that this most essential part of our schools would be cut off, and all the others continued! We have more faith in the district than that, and we have no doubt the people will in some way, provide as liberally for its support in the future as in the past.

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SCHOOL STATISTICS AND SCHOOL WORK.

The following outline of statistics and school work is presented for the purpose of showing to some extent, facts and figures which the town is particularly interested in. We refrain from criticising the teachers' work particularly. Those who wish to know more respecting teachers, are referred to record book of committee, which will be ready for examination shortly after the school registers are all returned.

In the whole town, on the 1st of April, 1878, there were 1099 scholars, against 1035 in 1877. The receipts of the town for school purposes, have been as follows:
State school fund and mill tax, $1612.07
Interest on town school fund, 112.00
Town tax, 2610.00

Total for 1878, $4334.07

The municipal officers and committee divided the above as follows:

Apportioned for 1878, $3734.07
Given to small districts, 600.00

No. 1.—FALLS (Union with Chesterville). Henry M. Howes, Agent. 46 scholars in Farmington; money to be expended this year, $197.34. Summer term taught by Nellie A. Walker of New Portland; length of school, 6 weeks; attendance, 43; average, 83 per cent.; wages, $4.00; board, $2.00. Fall term taught by Philip L. Paine of Portland; length of school, 9 weeks; attendance, 49; average, 83 per cent.; wages, $30 per month; board, $2.75. Winter term same principal, assisted by Isabel A. Coffin of Deering; length of school, 8 weeks; attendance, 47; average, 80 per cent.; wages and board of principal same as fall term; assistant, $2.00 per week.

No. 2.—GOWER DISTRICT. Charles Pierce, Agent. 14 scholars; money to be expended, $107.10. Summer term taught by Lillian Whittier of Chesterville; no register returned. Winter term taught by Mrs. M. R. Pearson of Farmington; length of school, 12 weeks; attendance, 14; average, 74 per cent.; wages, $5.50 per week, including board.

No. 3.—NORTON FLAT. M. H. Fellows, Agent. 83 scholars; money to be expended, $272.84. Summer and fall terms taught by Mae C. Eaton; length of school (both terms), 13 weeks; attendance, 40; average, 80 per cent.; wages, $6.00 per week; board, $1.50. Winter term 7 weeks, taught by Joseph Gilman, assisted by Ruth A. Norton; attendance, 45; average 68 per cent.; wages, principal $24 per month, assistant $3.00 per week; board, $2.00. The balance of the winter term is being taught by H. B. Knox.

No. 4.—VILLAGE DISTRICT. S. R. Leland, Agent. 335 scholars; money to be expended, $1,239.50 from the town school money and a balance of last years' high school money. In addition to this the district raised $300 by taxation to be expended under the free high school law. Teachers: J. A. Greene, principal, Addie L. Tuck,
assistant (spring term), Mary C. Spaulding (fall and winter terms); Grammar school, Villa A. Cushman (spring term), Delphina E. Gordon (fall and winter terms); Intermediate school, Emma C. Leland; Primary, Lizzie M. Brown. Wages of teachers, principal, $100 per month; assistant, $6 and $7 per week; Grammar school, $10 per week; Intermediate and Primary, $9 each. Length of school, 27 weeks. Board included in prices given. In the statement appended the first figures give the attendance, the second the average per cent. of attendance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Spring Term</th>
<th>Fall Term</th>
<th>Winter Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>39 85.</td>
<td>39 92.</td>
<td>41 88.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar</td>
<td>42 64.</td>
<td>40 80.</td>
<td>43 83.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>46 78.</td>
<td>40 82.</td>
<td>43 83.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>61 73.</td>
<td>53 85.</td>
<td>49 81.</td>
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</tbody>
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No. 5.—Fairbank's Mills. Gideon Lambert, Agent. 63 scholars; money to be expended, $226.48. Summer term taught by Ruth S. Manter of Industry; length of school, 6 weeks; attendance, 36; average, 77 per cent.; wages, $4.00 per week. Fall term by same teacher; length of school, 10 weeks; attendance, 45; average, 75 per cent.; wages, $5.00 per week; board, $1.50. Winter term now in session, taught by Love M. Norton.

No. 6.—Gay District. Jos. W. Billings, Agent. 10 scholars; money to be expended, $68.97. Summer term taught by Estelle Ballard of Farmington; length of term, 6 weeks; attendance, 36; average, 100 per cent.; wages, $2.00 per week; board, $1.12. Winter term taught by John W. Nichols; length of school, 8 weeks; attendance, 11; average, 76 per cent.; wages, $20 per month, including board. This school district should be annexed to No. 5.

No. 7.—Sprague District. Melville P. Tufts, Agent. 25 scholars; money to be expended, $130.76. Summer term taught by Augusta L. Wright; length of school, 6 weeks; attendance, 20; average, 90 per cent.; wages, $3.50 per week; board, $1.45. Winter term taught by same teacher; length of school, 13 weeks; attendance, 21; average, 85 per cent.; wages, $4.50 per week; board, $1.85.

No. 8.—Currier District. Sewall L. Smith, Agent. 14 scholars; money to be expended, $97.83. Summer term taught by Hortense M. Merrill; length of school, 6 weeks; attendance, 14; average, 85 per cent.; wages, $2.00 per week; board given. Winter term taught by Fred L. Hathaway; length of school, 12 weeks;
attendance, 14; average, 85 per cent.; wages, $15.50 per month; board, $1.50.

No. 9.—West Farmington. Thomas Davis, Agent. 60 scholars; money to be expended, $241.16. Summer term taught by Juliette C. Haines; length of school, 8 weeks; attendance, 40; average, 75 per cent.; wages, $5.00 per week; board, $2.00. Winter term taught by H. B. Knox; length of school, 10 weeks; attendance, 39; average, 76 per cent.; wages, $38.00 per month; board, $3.00.

No. 10.—Sewall District. F. J. Brown, Agent. 21 scholars; money to be expended, $126.03. Summer term taught by Lizzie E. Craig; length of school, 6 weeks; attendance, 10; average, 90 per cent.; wages, $3.00 per week; board, $1.50. Winter term taught by Lilla M. Scales is now in session.

No. 11.—Greenwood District. H. H. Jennings, Agent. 25 scholars; money to be expended, $140.35. Summer term taught by Lizzie A. Greenwood; length of school, 8 weeks; attendance, 12; average, 75 per cent.; wages, $3.25; board, 75 cents. Winter term taught by Frank F. Whittier; length of school, 10 weeks; attendance, 18; average, 94 per cent.; wages, $35; board, $2.00.

No. 12.—Knowlton's Corner. J. A. Knowlton, Agent. 31 scholars; money to be expended, $146.16. Summer term taught by May F. Park; length of school, 8 weeks; attendance, 17; average, 87 per cent.; wages, $3.00; board, $1.50. Winter term now in session, taught by Charles Green.

No. 13.—Lord's Hill. Scholars were all returned in Nos. 14 and 25.

No. 14.—Brigg's District. A. F. Hardy, Agent. 20 scholars; money to be expended, $120.15. Summer term taught by Etta K. Currier; length of school, 8 weeks; attendance, 13; average, 96 per cent.; wages, $2.75; board, $2.00. Winter term taught by Edward A. Hall; length of school, 10 weeks; attendance, 17; average, 77 per cent.; wages, $20; board, $2.25.

No. 15.—Russell's Mills. Chauncey Bangs, Agent. 30 scholars; money to be expended, $149.71. Summer term taught by Lydia Gilman; length of school, 9 weeks; attendance, 19; average, 74 per cent.; wages, 3.00; board, $1.40. Winter term taught by Etta K. Currier; length of school, 17 weeks; attendance, 25; average, 68 per cent.; wages, $4.25; board, $1.50.
No. 16.—PORTER HILL. Samuel Mann, Agent. 24 scholars' money to be expended, $164.14. Spring term taught by Mae C. Eaton; length of school, 8 weeks; attendance, 14; average 79 per cent.; wages, $4.00; board, $1.50. Summer term taught by Carrie E. Butler; length of school, 6 weeks; attendance, 15; average 66 per cent.; wages, $2.00; board $1.40. Fall term taught by Love M. Norton; length of school, 12 weeks; attendance, 20; average, 74 per cent.; wages, $2.00; board, $1.40.

No. 17.—BAILEY DISTRICT. Albert G. Ames, Agent. 21 scholars. Money to be expended, $107.63. Summer term taught by Ella A. Durrell. Length of school, 8 weeks. Attendance, 17. Average, 76 per cent. Wages, $2.00, and board $1.50. Winter term now in session, taught by Virgil L. Craig.

No. 18.—TITCOMB DISTRICT. A. W. Johnson, Agent. 16 scholars. Money to be expended this year, $115.05. Fall term taught by Nancy Stilson of New Sharon. Length of term, 2 weeks, (shortened on account of sickness of teacher). Attendance, 4. Average, 97 per cent. Wages $2.00, and board $2.00. Winter term taught by Miss O. H. Morrow, now in session.

No. 19.—MOSHER DISTRICT. Henry Mosher, Agent. 27 scholars. Money to be expended this year, $162.25. Summer and winter terms taught by Lillian E. Thurston. Summer term, 8 weeks. Attendance, 20. Average, 90 per cent. Wages $4.00, and board $1.20. Winter term, 13 weeks. Attendance, 23. Average, 82 per cent. Wages $4.50, and board $2.50. This school has had the advantage of the continuous work of one teacher the past two years, and has thus been able to accomplish much more than it could have otherwise done.


No. 21.—MERCHANT HOLLEY DISTRICT. John E. Stewart, Agent. 9 scholars. Money to be expended this year, $51.75. Summer term taught by Mrs. O. H. Morrow of Farmington. Length of school, 6 weeks. Attendance 8. Average, 87 per cent. Wages, $3.25. Fall term taught by same teacher. Length of school, 5 weeks. Attendance, 9. Average, 90 per cent. Wages $3.00, and board $1.50. This district should be consolidated with Fairbank's Mills district.

No. 23.—Union with North Chesterville. 24 scholars in Farmington. Money to be expended, $88.80.

No. 24.—SWIFT DISTRICT. Union with New Sharon. 8 scholars in Farmington. Money to be expended, $45.43.

No. 25.—FURBUCH DISTRICT. Union with Wilton. 11 scholars in Farmington. Money to be expended, $51.70.

No. 26.—Dennis H. Smith. 2 scholars. Money to be expended, $7.40. Mr. Smith wishes to be annexed to adjoining district in Wilton, and we would recommend the town to take favorable action on the same.

No. 28.—Union with Allen's Mills. 2 scholars in Farmington. Money to be expended. $40.69.

No. 30.—HILLMAN DISTRICT. 7 scholars. Money to be expended this year, $65.46. One term of 10 weeks, taught by Lewis J. Norton of Farmington. Attendance, 3. Average, 95 per cent. Wages $12 per month, and board $2 per week. Cost of teaching per week, $1.66 2-3 per scholar.

No. 31.—MCINTOSH DISTRICT. Union with New Sharon. 8 scholars in Farmington. Money to be expended, $37.60.
ROLL OF HONOR.

Gives the names of all pupils in town who have not been absent one-half day, as returned by the teachers.

No. 1. Spring term. Ten names. (Not given by teacher.)


No. 9. Summer term. Five in all, but register does not give the names. Winter term. Rose Bean, Frank Dudley.

No. 10. Summer term. Essie Brown, Jennie Weathren

No. 11. Winter term. Two, but register does not give names.


No. 14. Summer term. Alma Hardy, Mabel Hardy, Burton Hardy, Frank Hardy, Herman Reed, Verdeil Reed. Winter term. Herman Reed, Verdeil Reed.


All of which is respectfully submitted.

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

FARMINGTON, Feb. 20th, 1879.