1887

Annual Reports of the Municipal Officers and Superintending School Committee of the Town of Farmington, for the Year Ending February 15, 1887

Farmington (Me.).

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ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

AND

Superintending School Committee

OF THE

TOWN OF FARMINGTON,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 15, 1887.

FARMINGTON:
PRESS OF KNOWLTON, McLEARY & CO.
1887.
TOWN WARRANT.

To Daniel Hoyt, Constable of the Town of Farmington, in the County of Franklin,

GREETING:

In the name of the State of Maine you are hereby required to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the said Town of Farmington, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at Music Hall, in said town, on the 7th day of March next, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, to act on the following articles, to wit:—

ARTICLE 1. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.
ART. 2. To choose all necessary town officers for the ensuing year.
ART. 3. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise for the Support of Schools the ensuing year.
ART. 4. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise for the Support of the Poor the ensuing year.
ART. 5. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise to defray Town Charges the ensuing year.
ART. 6. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise to pay Outstanding Indebtedness.
ART. 7. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise to pay Interest on Outstanding Indebtedness.
ART. 8. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise for the repair of roads and bridges, and how the same shall be expended.
ART. 9. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise for the repair of large bridges.
ART. 10. To see if the town will raise and appropriate the sum of fifty dollars for the observance of Memorial Day.
ART. 11. To see if the town will authorize the Selectmen and Town Treasurer to refund by issuing town bonds for all interest-bearing indebtedness due in 1887.
ART. 12. To see how the taxes shall be collected, and when made payable.
ART. 13. To see if the town will vote to instruct the several school districts to elect their school agents the ensuing year.
ART. 14. To see what instruction the town will give the Assessors relative to taking the inventory of said town.
ART. 15. To see if the town will vote to elect an Auditor for the ensuing year.

ART. 16. To see if the town will vote to tax dogs for the ensuing year.

ART. 17. To see if the town will vote to build a Town House, and how the money shall be raised for that purpose.

ART. 18. To see if the town will vote to abolish the Liquor Agency.

ART. 19. To see if the town will vote to accept the list of jurors as revised by the revising board.

ART. 20. To see if the town will vote to pay C. Hutchinson of Weld for damage for injuries sustained on highway by himself and wife.

ART. 21. To see if the town will authorize the Town Treasurer to deed lot on Main Street, known as "Forest Hotel" lot, to J. S. Milliken upon receipt of the amount of money assessed on said lot and cost and interest.

ART. 22. To see if the town will vote to accept the way as widened by the Selectmen from Pleasant Street to Cedar Street.

ART. 23. To see if the town will vote to accept any or all sums of money that may be deposited with the town, the interest to be appropriated on the several graveyards or lots.

ART. 24. To see if the town will vote to buy Road Machine now in the possession of A. J. Wheeler.

The Selectmen give notice that they shall be in session for the purpose of correcting the list of voters in said town, and hearing and deciding upon the application of persons claiming to have their names entered upon said list, at the Selectmen's Office, at 2 o'clock P.M., Saturday, March 5, 1887, and at eight o'clock in the forenoon on the day of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 17th day of February, A. D. 1887.

E. J. DYAR,  
SAM'L G. CRAIG,  
F. C. PERKINS,  

Selectmen of Farmington.
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 February 13, 1886, to February 15, 1887.

ASSESSMENTS.

After taking inventory of the real and personal estate, we found the valuation of the town to be Fifteen Hundred Sixty-three Thousand Three Hundred and Eighty Dollars ($1,563,380), viz.: Total amount of real estate, $1,183,195; total amount of personal estate, $380,185; and the number of polls to be 859, and the number of dogs 128.

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

For State Tax, $6,013 56
County Tax, 1,868 15
Support of Schools, 3,000 00
Support of Poor, 2,500 00
Defraying Town Charges, 2,500 00
Paying Outstanding Indebtedness, 1,000 00
Interest on Outstanding Indebtedness, 800 00
Repairing Roads and Bridges, 6,000 00
Repairing Large Bridges, 500 00
Observance of Memorial Day, 50 00
Overlayings,. 1,167 66
On Dogs 128 00

$25,527 37
On the 17th day of July, A. D. 1886, we committed lists of said assessments unto Daniel Hoyt, Esq., Collector of said town.

We subsequently committed a supplemental assessment to said collector amounting to the sum of Two Hundred Thirteen Dollars and Forty-four Cents ($213.44), making the total amount committed to the collector Twenty-five Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty Dollars and Eighty-one Cents ($25,740.81), and the number of Polls, Forty, making total number of Polls Eight Hundred and Ninety-nine (899).

---

**School District No. 1.**

*Union with District No. 9, Chesterville.*

Valuation of Real Estate, $74,400 00
Valuation of Personal Estate, 23,420 00

Number of Polls, Sixty-one.

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

- For Payment of Interest-bearing Debt, $148 80
- Overlays, 7 05

Total, $155 85

**School District No. 4.**

Valuation of Real Estate, $490,495 00
Valuation of Personal Estate, 221,425 00

Number of Polls, Three Hundred and Twelve.

On the polls and estates we have assessed the following sums:

- Free High School, $250 00
- Overlays, 12 44

Total, $262 44

On the 17th day of July, A. D. 1886, we committed the foregoing lists of said assessments unto Daniel Hoyt, of said town.

---

**Support of Schools.**

Amount of money raised by the town, $3,000 00
School Fund and Mill Tax, 1,547 01
Interest on Town School Fund, 86 52

Total, $4,633.53
After deducting the sum of $538.44 from this amount to be given to smaller districts, as authorized by law, the remainder was apportioned to the several districts according to the number of scholars returned by the agents, being at the rate of $4.38 to each scholar, except union districts.

The division of school money is made April 1st.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT.</th>
<th>Number of Scholars</th>
<th>Balance Feb. 13, 1886</th>
<th>Amount Appointed Apr. 1st, 1886</th>
<th>Amount of Orders drawn since Feb. 13, 1886</th>
<th>Balance Feb. 15, 1887</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Falls (Union),</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>$10 93</td>
<td>$219 03</td>
<td>$164 00</td>
<td>$65 96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Gower,</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>45 75</td>
<td>102 56</td>
<td>96 16</td>
<td>52 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Norton Flat,</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>200 03</td>
<td>303 54</td>
<td>332 30</td>
<td>231 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Village,</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>593 25</td>
<td>1375 32</td>
<td>1636 60</td>
<td>331 97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Fairbanks,</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>180 34</td>
<td>271 56</td>
<td>261 99</td>
<td>195 91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Sprague,</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>16 74</td>
<td>123 88</td>
<td>131 58</td>
<td>9 04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Currier,</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>75 47</td>
<td>102 56</td>
<td>82 40</td>
<td>95 63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 West Farmington,</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>132 21</td>
<td>385 44</td>
<td>463 22</td>
<td>54 43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Sewall,</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>97 59</td>
<td>132 62</td>
<td>115 64</td>
<td>53 87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Greenwood,</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>61 61</td>
<td>111 32</td>
<td>110 10</td>
<td>1 83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Knowlton's Corner,</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>106 69</td>
<td>131 36</td>
<td>140 35</td>
<td>97 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Briggs,</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>86 42</td>
<td>136 36</td>
<td>132 30</td>
<td>90 48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Russell's Mills,</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>2 09</td>
<td>147 64</td>
<td>136 10</td>
<td>1 63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Porter Hill,</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>28 20</td>
<td>54 72</td>
<td>82 92</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Bailey Hill,</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>84 40</td>
<td>116 96</td>
<td>202 01</td>
<td>0&quot;vr dr'n 65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Titcomb,</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>56 05</td>
<td>125 74</td>
<td>180 90</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Mosher Hill,</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>29 18</td>
<td>116 96</td>
<td>136 75</td>
<td>9 39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Holley,</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4 12</td>
<td>106 32</td>
<td>37 50</td>
<td>72 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 J. P. Holley,</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6 08</td>
<td>106 32</td>
<td>108 75</td>
<td>3 65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Walton's Mills,</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>109 23</td>
<td>170 82</td>
<td>199 60</td>
<td>80 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 N. Chesterville (Union),</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>30 50</td>
<td>89 40</td>
<td>169 50</td>
<td>10 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Furbush (Union),</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>57 00</td>
<td>58 11</td>
<td>57 00</td>
<td>58 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 D. H. Smith,</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9 38</td>
<td>9 38</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Allen's Mills (Union),</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>35 76</td>
<td>35 76</td>
<td>19 15</td>
<td>16 61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Hillman,</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>41 86</td>
<td>17 52</td>
<td>33 00</td>
<td>26 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 McIntosh (Union),</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>41 86</td>
<td>22 35</td>
<td>22 35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

933 $2,000 79 $4,633 53 $4,991 92 $1,642 39

Balance due School Districts, Feb. 13, 1886, $2,000 79
Amount of school money apportioned April 1st, 1886, 4,633 53

Orders drawn since Feb. 13, 1886, $4,991 92
Balance due Districts Feb. 15, 1887, 1,642 39

$6,634 32


**SUPPORT OF POOR.**

Maine Insane Hospital, $387 79
Supplies furnished Lyman Harmon and paid by town of Strong, 35 25
Supplies furnished John Meservey and paid by Hallowell, 20 65
Supplies furnished tramps, 42 73
Supplies paid Maine Industrial School for support of Issa Nutting, 41 25
Supplies furnished Mrs. Penley, charged to Lewiston, 13 00
Supplies and medical aid to Wm. Burgess, charged to Temple, 6 50
Supplies furnished S. L. Robbins and paid by Anson, 27 00
R. H. Smith for balance on contract to April 1, 1866, 790 00
R. H. Smith for part payment on contract to April 1, 1887, 976 25

Your Overseers contracted with R. H. Smith for the support of all paupers of said town, except those insane, who now need assistance, and those who may hereafter become chargeable, subject to certain conditions, for one year from April 1, 1886, for the sum of $1,875:

Orders issued to R. H. Smith since Feb. 13, 1886, $1,766 25
Orders issued for the support of insane and others, 364 15

Appropriation by town, $2,500 00

**LARGE BRIDGES.**

Geo. W. Davis, plank and timber on Gower Bridge, $39 84
Edwin Thurston, for lumber on Iron Bridge, 115 00
J. E. Hiscock, for plank, 25 00
J. E. Hiscock, for plank and labor, 26 89
C. A. Gould, lumber, 25 72
A. L. Barker, lumber, 6 50
Whitney & Prince, labor, 2 00
G. W. Ranger, labor, 1 89

Total, $242 84
Appropriation, $500 00

**ROADS AND BRIDGES.**

Surveyors' Orders to May 1st, 1886, $1,760 66
Surveyors' Orders for work on Highway under Surveyors since May 1, 1886, 3,480 52

Appropriation, $5,141 18
$6,000 00

In hands of the Surveyors, $1,339 48
TOWN CHARGES.

D. H. Knowlton, for books and stationery, $4.65
Herbert Morton, labor, 1.50
Daniel Hoyt, for lumber and labor, 11.50
E. B. Norton, services as S. S. Committee for the year 1885, 55.00
P. P. Tufts, services as Treasurer for the year 1885, 100.00
Geo. W. Wheeler, services as Selectman for the year 1885, 111.00
E. J. Dyar, " " " " " " " " S. S. Committee 91.50
S. G. Craig, " " " " " " " " " " 90.00
E. E. Richards, " " " " S. S. Committee 13.00
Mrs. E. T. Sewell, " " " " " " " 46.70
I. W. Merrill, " " " " Town Clerk, 25.00
P. P. Tufts, for cash paid for sundries, 16.36
Reuel I. Gilman, for damage on road, 49.50
S. C. Paine, " " 2.00
H. Morton, for cedar posts, etc., 2.12
Henry Brown, for crossing land ending May 1, 1886, 10.00
Josiah Cutler, for snowing Falls Bridge, 5.00
C. W. Keyes, printing Teachers’ Blanks and Town Report ending March 1, 1886, 37.00
W. A. Ames, crossing land ending May, 1886, 5.00
J. R. Adams, " " " " " " " 3.00
Wilson Ferrand, for removing dead horse, 2.00
Daniel Hoyt, commission for collecting taxes for 1885, 652.98
Daniel Hoyt, for tax deeds for 1885, 134.21
C. Barden, lighting Falls Bridge, 9.00
Daniel Hoyt, for tax deeds, 108.18
D. M. Bonney, rent Selectmen’s office, 3.33
Journal Newspaper Co., for printing, 3.50
A. J. Wheeler, removing walls, 4.00
M. H. Fellows and others, removing walls, 2.00
Phillips Fire Company, 75.00
J. W. Withee, dinners for Portland Firemen, 3.20
Frank Garrett, for labor on Town House, 2.25
Cash paid for safe, 115.00
For Selectmen’s Office, (bought) 43.80
G. W. Titcomb, for books and stationery, 2.83
T. H. Adams, 8 chairs for Selectmen’s office, 4.97
Dobier & Waugh, use of Hall for Town Meeting, 20.00
Watering Tubs, 41.00

A. J. Gerry, P. M. of G. A. R. Memorial Day, 50.00

Appropriation, $2,500.00
" Memorial Day, 50.00

$1,907.08
(10)

ABATEMENTS.

For the year 1885, $369 19
For the year 1886, 15 81
Total, $385 00
No appropriation.

INTEREST.

Interest paid on temporary loan, $58 21
Coupons paid, 569 00
Total, $627 21
Appropriation, $800 00

TOWN BONDS OUTSTANDING.

Due April, 1887, at 5 per cent., $5,550 00
Do., 1887, " 3 " 6,000 00
Do., 1889, " 4 " 4,100 00
Total, $15,650 00

TOWN ORDERS BEARING INTEREST.

Due April 1, 1887, at 3 per cent., $600 00
Do., do. 265 00
Total, $865 00

TAX, 1881, R. H. SMITH, COLLECTOR.

Balance per last report, $1 41

TAX, 1886, DANIEL HOYT, COLLECTOR.

Commitment, $1,500 00
State Tax, 6,013 56
County Tax, 1,868 15
Town Tax, 17,859 10
Paid State Treasurer, " County " 500 00
" Town " 13,500 00
Bal. State " County " 4,513 56
" Town " 1,368 15
" 4,359 10

$25,740 81

SCHOOL DIST. NO. 1, TAX, 1886, DANIEL HOYT, COL.

Commitment, $155 85
SCHOOL DIST. NO. 4, TAX, FREE HIGH SCHOOL, D. HOYT, COL.

Commitment,

$262 44

SCHOOL DISTRICT INDEBTEDNESS.

District No. 1, payable $120 annually, Sept.,

$360 00

Due and unpaid,

35 00

STEAM FIRE ENGINE.

Paid for steam fire engine,

$4,410 00

Paid for drawing from depot,

2 00

Total,

$4,412 00

The Selectmen and Treasurer, at a special meeting called for that purpose, were authorized to hire a sum of money not exceeding five thousand dollars for purchase of steam engine and appliances.

We have drawn orders on interest at 3 per cent. for the sum of $865. Paid out of the town treasury $3,547.

LIQUOR ACCOUNT.

Liquors on hand Feb. 12, 1886,

$268 12

Cash paid for liquor from Feb. 12, 1886, to Feb. 12, 1887,

3,610 00

Paid freight as per bills,

59 92

Agent's Salary,

150 00

Profits on liquor sold,

602 59

$4,690 63

Cash received from sales of liquor from Feb. 12, 1886 to Feb. 12, 1887,

$4,392 58

Cash received for barrels and kegs,

37 25

Stock on hand Feb. 12, 1887,

260 80

CASH ACCOUNT.

Dr

To Cash for liquors sold from Feb. 12, 1886, to Feb. 12, 1887,

$4,392 58

" barrels and kegs,

37 25

$4,429 83

Cr.

By Cash paid W. Z. Clayton, State Agent, for liquors from Feb. 12, 1886, to Feb. 12, 1887,

$3,610 00

Cash paid freight as per bills,

59 92

" Agent's Salary for one year,

150 00

" P. P. Tufts, Treasurer,

609 91

$4,429 83
## LIABILITIES.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance due School Districts,</td>
<td>$1,642 39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance subject to order of Highway Surveyors, to May 1st, 1887,</td>
<td>1,339 48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance on contract for Support of Poor,</td>
<td>898 75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest due April 1, 1887, estimated,</td>
<td>350 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Officers' Bills for current year, estimated,</td>
<td>430 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. S. Committee, &quot; &quot; &quot; &quot;</td>
<td>125 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Hoyt, Collector, &quot; &quot; &quot; &quot;</td>
<td>449 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Orders not on Interest,</td>
<td>41 64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School &quot; &quot; &quot; &quot;</td>
<td>13 51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Orders bearing Interest,</td>
<td>865 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funded Debt,</td>
<td>15,650 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$21,374 77</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## RESOURCES.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tax 1881, R. H. Smith, Collector,</td>
<td>$1 41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax 1886, Daniel Hoyt, Collector,</td>
<td>4,359 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State School Fund and Mill Tax,</td>
<td>1,547 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on Town School Fund,</td>
<td>88 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due on Tax Deeds,</td>
<td>535 51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due from other Towns,</td>
<td>49 07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash on hand Feb. 15, 1887,</td>
<td>3,564 81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$10,145 13</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## ESTIMATES FOR ENSUING YEAR.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For Support of Schools,</td>
<td>$2,800 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Support of Poor,</td>
<td>2,500 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Defraying Town Charges,</td>
<td>2,500 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Interest,</td>
<td>800 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Repairs of Roads and Bridges,</td>
<td>6,000 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Repairs of Large Bridges,</td>
<td>500 00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## SELECTMEN.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E. J. Dyar, services for 1886, estimated,</td>
<td>$100 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. G. Craig, &quot; &quot; &quot; &quot;</td>
<td>100 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. C. Perkins, &quot; &quot; &quot; &quot;</td>
<td>105 00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Treasurer’s Report.

Town of Farmington in Account with P. P. Tufts, Treasurer.

DR.

To paid Town Orders, $17,362 04
   School Orders, 5,993 95
   State pensions, 141 00
   For Coupons, 569 00
   Interest on temporary loan, 58 21
Cash in treasury, Feb. 15, 1887, 3,564 81
Total $26,789 01

CR.

By Cash in Treasury, Feb. 13, 1886, $3,447 89
   Of D. Hoyt, collector for 1885, in full, 4,237 50
      "  "   "  "  1886, in part, 13,500 00
   State for pensions paid, 153 00
      "  " Railroad and Telegraph Tax, 112 90
      "  " School fund and mill tax, 1,558 62
   Liquor Agent to date, 400 00
   For temporary loan at 4 per cent, and paid, 2,000 00
      "  "   "  "  3 per cent, now due, 865 00
   For tax deeds, 217 29
   For License, 1 00
   Of Treasurer of School fund, 86 52
   For support of Insane at Hospital, 7 00
      "  "   "  "  paupers, rendered, 198 29
      "  " Carpet sold, 4 00
Total $26,789 01

P. P. TUFTS, Treasurer.
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Superintending School Committee.

Citizens of Farmington:—

The annual reviews of the schools by S. S. Committees of years past, speak of steady progress and improvement. This was true, no doubt, of those years, and, in a general way, is equally true of the year just past. We think the schools of the past year have been as good as those of years previous. But there is danger in looking only at the bright side of the picture, as such a view would foster a belief that the schools are all that ought to be expected, which, conscience compels us to say, is not the case.

We have had some schools in which teachers have done model work, there have been others in which there has been an almost criminal waste of time and money. For these failures we think no real blame attaches to either the people or the school officers, but wholly to the district system, the existence of which, renders the excellence of our schools far too largely a matter of accident.

It is our sincere belief that every inhabitant of the town has desired the welfare of the schools and acted in all good conscience to promote it. But the district system cripples all who have to do with it. Under it the agent has no more real power in the choice of teachers than he has as a citizen, for the school committee may, at will, reject his wisest choice or sustain his poorest, and he has no redress sooner than he could claim it under the town system. Indeed one agent who had con-
sulted both law and lawyers, expressed to us his conviction that the system allows the agent only the power to "do the dirty work."

The district system disheartens the teachers, inasmuch as however faithfully they may work, they have small hope of holding their situations after a change of agents. Those who work from policy find it much easier to please by flattery and seeking social popularity, than by making good scholars.

School supervision under the district system is beset by innumerable difficulties, a few of which I will mention. The district agent is justified by law in choosing a teacher without knowledge of fitness, for of that the committee must judge. The candidate appears for examination at whatever time is most convenient for himself, in one instance during the past year, just fifteen minutes before the school was to begin, usually too late for satisfactory recommendations to be looked up. Perhaps in examination he may do well, but even then, no knowledge can be gained regarding his ability to instruct or manage the school. Justice demands that the teacher be given the benefit of doubts, for his rejection might prove to be rejecting the very best of teachers—a veritable "angel" unawares. The school begins. The average teacher claims two weeks in which to get the school in working order, while ordinarily at least four must elapse before sufficient evidence is collected to prove the school either a success or failure. If the latter, there remains not more than four weeks of an average term, often not more than two. The question then arises "shall the teacher be expelled?"—an act which always brings in its train a long line of evils with which all are familiar,—or shall the school be allowed to live on "at a poor flying rate," as a choice of two evils, on the ground that some of the pupils loving study for its own sake, will learn in spite of circumstances, and that more harm than good would result from interruption, especially as the next teacher must be one chosen by the same agent, with equal chances of the same experience repeated.

Again: This State recently enacted a law requiring that all pupils in all public schools, be taught the effects of alcoholic drinks and narcotics upon the human system. In every teacher's desk in this town has been placed a "Primer of Physiology," containing simple, concise statements in regard to these matters, and every teacher has been requested to familiarize his pupils with these truths, to the end that they may be forwarned in season against the formation of intemperate habits. General topics were given to the teachers regarding the nature
of stimulants and narcotics,—effect on different organs of the body,—
social and moral evils associated with their use.

While some teachers have done this work with such good results as
to prove its practicability, others have utterly ignored these subjects in
school. This we believe to be caused by indolence and a knowledge
that their ability to secure employment in the future, depends not on
their effort to teach as the laws require, but on the bargains they can
make with district agents,—if not, indeed, in this town, in some
other.

Aside from the graded schools in District No. 4, there have been
taught in town, during this year, three hundred ninety-eight weeks of
school. For these we have had forty-two changes of teachers. Think
of the time consumed in learning just how long lessons Johnnie can get,
and persuading Mary to defer the study of percentage until she can
write simple numbers!

Can any one doubt that teachers selected by three persons who have
made careful study of educational methods, and observed the actual
working of scores of teachers, choosing them for no other reason than
that they had been tried and proven, and were the best to be found,
will do better work than those chosen by twenty different men, whose
time is in most cases occupied in considering totally different matters—
whose lines of thought are widely apart, and who perhaps have never
visited a school since they themselves were pupils?

Those to whom the district system in name seems to be dearest, are
really utterly dissatisfied with its working. Personal conversation with
them reveals the remarkable fact that, in their opinion, there has not
been a good school in their districts since they themselves were agents!

Do the citizens of Farmington believe that a school committee
would abuse this power were it vested in them? Do they really believe
that the present board, for example, two of whom have taught in pub-
lic schools an aggregate of thirty years—whose eyes are opened to
faults in teaching by memories of their own mistakes, memories which
abide with them as an eternal and sleepless remorse—mothers whom
Nature forbids to visit a school without asking herself the question,
“Could I willingly trust my own child in this teacher’s care?”—would
choose for them teachers less suitable than those now employed?

We are told that a choice made by the committee would prefer
strangers to the daughters and sons of the town. Would our patriotism,
regard for the Golden Rule and hopes for our own children prompt us to such a course?

But even if you believe such things of us let it not influence your decision, for remember that before the town could act in this matter, as we hope it will, and substitute the town for the district system, two of us will have passed out of office. Then will the majority be those who shall have been chosen with this object in view, namely, to give them the power of selecting the teachers, for whose satisfactory work they shall be responsible. It is a duty which demands the best judgment of your most able citizens, but at present those best qualified refuse to serve as school committee, or having once done so, persistently decline re-election. They know too well that it is like “making bricks without straw,” or running races with fettered feet.

Voters of Farmington, this matter is in your hands. The votes are yours, the power yours. The money is your children’s, given to you by the fostering Mother State in trust to wisely expend. She demands of you in return—you who have in your care the forming of your children’s characters, which are fixed for good or evil while their home is yours—that you send them out strong, pure citizens, thoroughly furnished for all good works.

From the children themselves comes the unvoiced appeal,—

"Look into our cheerful faces,  
See you not our willing hearts?  
* * * * * * * *  
Only love us, only lead us,  
You can make us what you will."

Do you not agree with us that this matter deserves more careful thought than you have taken time to give it? Is it not worthy a consideration which shall be something more than a memory of how angry your neighbors were, when nearly twenty years ago the town gave a trial of one short year to the system we urge upon your notice,—a trial unfair for many reasons.

Ought you not in justice to read for yourselves the best arguments for and against the town system? To search for and consider the testimony of towns all around you which have tried the plan? Remember that Massachusetts and New Hampshire have made the change years ago, by legislative enactment, and the great states formed later than New England never used the district system at all. In Maine to-day, the Legislative Educational Committee report that it ought to be by law wiped out of existence.
Remember that the State Superintendent of common schools, Hon. N. A. Luce, says of the district system that it "Is the embodiment of educational injustice and inequity, inefficiency and waste, unsystem and unthrifty, and is a hindrance and bar to educational improvement," that "as a system for wasting the public moneys devoted to educational purposes, for putting unequal burdens upon tax-payers in building and maintaining of school-houses, for making unequal the privileges of education which ought to be equal to all without regard to locality—in short, as a system for doing what it ought not to do, and leaving undone what it ought to do, human ingenuity can be challenged to produce its equal."

The Course of Study adopted for the rural schools of the town last year has been productive of much good, and we hope for still better results as its benefits become more fully understood. We feel deeply grateful to the citizens of the town, not only for the honor conferred upon us, but for the unfailing courtesy and kind support which they have invariably accorded to us throughout the year. We thank those teachers who have done their best, and to any agent who desires such suggestions we will furnish a list of the names of such teachers as have, in our opinion, so well served the town in the past year as to be safely entrusted with the care of its schools in future.

The schools have been visited as often as required by law, except in cases in which we received no notification of the time when the term would close. We have examined the record of each pupil whose name appeared in the census report of District No. 4—where cases of truancy are most frequent and obvious—and found the number of pupils who had failed to attend school the twelve weeks required by law, not excused by sickness or private instruction, in that district to be less than a half dozen. We were deterred from any attempt to prosecute these cases by the advice of the State Superintendent of Schools, whose well-directed efforts have since caused the enactment of a better compulsory law, which it is hoped will not be what the other was,—"a mere dead letter cumbering the statute books."

SUGGESTIONS.

In reviewing the school reports of previous years, we find good advice, which, had it been followed, would have placed our schools on a much higher plane than they occupy to-day. If it is important to employ persons whose duty it is to study the needs of the schools, isn't it equally important that agents and parents give heed to suggestions
made by them? We have observed with pleasure, that many districts have acted on hints given in the report of last year; this gives us courage to add others at this time.

Parents, go to school meeting; put your best man in agent; talk up the needs of your school, and instruct the agent to use a part of the money (ten per cent. can be so used) in supplying them. Several chairs, plenty of blackboard room, maps and globes, numeral frame and dictionary should be in every school-room. If these cannot all be obtained at once, make a beginning; get something each term; take good care of what you have, and soon you will be well supplied.

Will the agents see that the surrounding grounds and out-buildings are in good condition, when the school opens, and request the teachers to insist on their being so kept?

Look after ventilation carefully. The method suggested in last year's report has been successful in one school at least. Don't forget window shades.

In closing our report, we would extend to all citizens our urgent solicitations that they acquaint themselves personally with the condition of our schools by frequent visits. We also heartily invite criticism, it being our earnest desire to do everything to ensure progress in every direction, and friendly criticism is one of the best helps to such an end.

REPORT OF HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL.

Members of the Superintending School Committee:—

In compliance with your request, I present the following brief report of the condition of the Village Schools during the past year:

The pupils of the several grades have displayed a good degree of interest by their punctual attendance and application to the work required of them. So far as I have been able to observe, the assistant teachers have carefully and faithfully performed the work in their respective grades.

The Course of Study adopted by you has been carried out in all the lower grades; some slight variation was deemed best, and has been made in that of the High School.

In cases requiring severe discipline, the school has been fortunate during the year; all rules and regulations necessary to the welfare of the school have been easily enforced.

Additional apparatus would render the study of many branches more interesting and profitable, and could be obtained by the outlay of a much smaller sum at the present low prices than formerly.
If the school grounds were properly graded and inclosed by a suitable fence, the appearance of the school building would be much improved, and the control of the school rendered easier.

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. RUSSELL.

A Four Years' Course of Study for the Common School.

Pupils can begin this course who are familiar with the four fundamental rules of Arithmetic and able to read in the Fourth Reader.

FIRST YEAR.—Fourth Reader, Spelling, oral and written, Arithmetic to Weights and Measures, Elementary Geography completed, Language Lessons, using questions in the Reader, supplemented by questions by the teacher, Writing, Drawing.

SECOND YEAR.—Reading, Fourth Reader and Child's Book of Nature, Spelling, oral and written, Writing, Drawing, Arithmetic to Percentage, Geography to South America, Language Lessons, Grammar.

THIRD YEAR.—Reading, Child's Book of Nature and Fifth Reader, Spelling, oral and written, Writing, Drawing, Arithmetic to Involution, Geography completed, History of the United States through Revolutionary War, Grammar.

FOURTH YEAR.—Reading, Fifth Reader, Spelling, oral and written, Book-keeping, Arithmetic completed, U. S. History completed, Analysis, Physiology, Constitution of Maine, Examination covering the course, by Superintending School Committee, Graduation.

ADVANCED COURSE.—Miscellaneous Reading, English Composition, Physical Geography, Elementary Algebra, Botany, Natural Philosophy, Civil Government, Elementary Geometry, Examination covering the course, Graduation.

Farmington High School.—Courses of Study.

CLASSICAL.


SECOND YEAR.—Fall Term: Algebra, Arithmetic, Geometry, Physics, Cæsar. Spring: Geometry, Physics, Cæsar, Sallust, Greek, French or English Literature.

THIRD YEAR.—Fall Term: Chemistry, Cicero, Greek, French or Geology, Physical Geography. Spring: Cicero, Greek, Astronomy or Zoology, Civil Government.

FOURTH YEAR.—Fall Term: Virgil, Anabasis, General History. Spring: Virgil and Latin Prose, Homer, General History.

ENGLISH.

FIRST YEAR.—Fall Term: Algebra, Book-keeping, American Literature, Physical Geography. Spring: Algebra, Physiology, English Composition, Botany, General History.

SECOND YEAR.—Fall Term: Algebra, Arithmetic, Geometry, Physics, General History. Spring: Geometry, Physics, General History, English Literature.
THIRD YEAR.—*Fall Term:* Chemistry, English Literature, Geology.  *Spring:* English Literature, English Composition, Astronomy or Zoology, Civil Government.

Farmington Grammar School.—Course of Study.

**First Year.**—Grammar, Swinton’s Language Lessons, Arithmetic from page 136 to 183, Geography to South America, Primer of Physiology, Writing, Drawing, Reading, Complete Child’s Book of Nature.

**Second Year.**—Grammar, Language Lessons completed, Arithmetic from page 183 to 242, Geography completed, U. S. History commenced, Writing, Drawing, Reading.

**Third Year.**—Analysis, English Composition, Arithmetic, finish book and review, U. S. History, finish and review, Botany, Writing, Drawing, Reading.

Farmington Intermediate School.—Course of Study.

**First Year.**—Reading, Third Reader and Fourth Reader, Arithmetic; Primary Arithmetic completed and Complete Arithmetic to page 57, Geography as a reading lesson, Writing, Drawing, Language, oral lessons with written lessons, Music, exercises in vocal music daily, Spelling in every recitation.

**Second Year.**—Reading, Fourth Reader, Arithmetic, from page 57 to 93, Geography, through United States, Writing, Drawing, Music, Spelling, continue first year’s work, Drawing, continue first year’s work.

**Third Year.**—Reading, Book of Nature, first half, Arithmetic, from page 93 to 137, Geography, completed, Language Lessons continued, Drawing, Music, Spelling.

SCHOOL STATISTICS.

The following outline of the year’s work, so far as returns have been received, is presented.

**No. 1.—Falls District.**  Agent, Fred M. Robbins, M. D.  No. of scholars, 49.  Summer term of 8 weeks, taught by Miss Edna E. Davis of Vienna; wages, $4.00; board, $2.25; average attendance, 27.  Winter term of 10 weeks taught by Mr. W. S. Masterman of Weld, with Miss Maud C. Conant of Temple as Primary teacher.  Average attendance, 14; Primary department, 19; wages of principal, $40 per month; board, $3.00; wages of primary teacher, $4.25; board, 2.25.

**No. 2.—Gower District.**  Agent, Charles H. Pierce.  No. of scholars, 12.  Spring term of 6 weeks taught by Miss Faustina E. Trask; average attendance, 8; wages, $2.00; board, $1.80.  Winter term of 14 weeks, taught by Miss Carrie A. Whittier of Chesterville.  Average attendance, 8.3; wages, $3.25; board, $1.80.

**No. 3.—Norton District.**  Agent, William M. Holley.  No. of scholars, 83.  Spring term of 10 weeks taught by Miss Carrie A. Whittier.  Average attendance, 24; wages, $5.00; board, $2.00.  Fall term of 8 weeks taught by Miss Alice H. Hodgkins of Chesterville.  Average attendance, 19; wages, $5.25; board, $2.25.  Winter term now in session taught by Rufus Henry Douglas of Minneapolis, Minn., with Miss Issie B. Norton as primary teacher.

**No. 4.—Village District.**  Agent, Parmenas Dyer, M. D.  No. of scholars, 314.  Board of Instruction: Mr. John A. Russell, Principal; Grammar School, Miss Rose B. Collins; Intermediate, Miss Annie M. Stevens; Primary, Miss Rose M. Tarbox; Miss Nora M. Beedy assistant, spring term.  Length of school for which
registers have been returned, 32 weeks; wages,—Principal, $100 per month; lady teachers, $7.00 and $8.00 per week. The average attendance in the different schools for the year is as follows: High, 18; Grammar, 37; Intermediate, 47; Primary, 44.

No. 5.—FABRANKS MILLS. Agent, David E. Currier. No. of scholars, 62. Spring term of 8 weeks taught by Miss Lizzie S. Hodgkins of Chesterville. Average attendance, 25; wages, $4.00; board, $1.75. Fall term of 8 weeks taught by same teacher. Average attendance, 26; wages, $5.00; board, $1.75. Winter term now in session under the instruction of Mr. George W. Staples of Temple.

No. 7.—SPRAGUE DISTRICT. Agent, Herbert L. Sprague. No. of scholars, 26. Spring term of 6 weeks taught by Miss Nellie M. Huse. Average attendance, 13; wages, $3.50; board, $2.50. Fall term of 6 weeks taught by Miss Thalie L. Corbett of Salem. Average attendance, 12; wages, $3.50; board, $2.50. Winter term of 6 weeks taught by R. H. Douglas. Average attendance, 11.50; wages, $25.72; board, $2.00.

No. 8.—CURRIER DISTRICT. Agent, Elisha Bradford. No. of scholars, 12. Only one term of school has been held in this district this year, which is now in session under the instruction of Miss Carrie A. Whittier.

No. 9.—WEST FARMINGTON. Agent, George Smith. No. of scholars, 88. Spring term of 9 weeks taught by Miss Lilla M. Scales of Temple, with Miss Laura A. Whitten as teacher of the Primary department. Average attendance, 36; wages, $5.00; board, $2.00; wages of Primary teacher, including board, $2.50. Fall term of 9 weeks taught by the same teachers; wages and board the same; average attendance, 35. Winter term of 8 weeks taught by Mr. John J. Hunt of Wilton, with Miss Nellie Farmer as teacher of the Primary department; average attendance, 34; wages, $45 per month including board; wages of primary teacher, $2.50 including board.

No. 10.—SEWALL DISTRICT. Agent, E. R. Weathern. No. of scholars, 20. Spring term of six weeks taught by Miss Alice Louise Tate; average attendance, 24; wages, $2.50; board, $1.50. Winter term now in session under the instruction of Mrs. Eliza T. Sewall.

No. 11.—GREENWOOD DISTRICT. Agent, H. H. Jennings. No. of scholars, 14. Spring term of 8 weeks taught by Miss Emma L. Holbrook. Average attendance, 8; wages, $2.25; board, $1.50. Winter term of 12 weeks taught by Miss Lilla M. Scales. Average attendance, 10; wages including board, $5.75.

No. 12.—KNOWLTON’S CORNER. Agent, Sylvanus Knowlton, Jr. No. of scholars, 22. Spring term of 8 weeks taught by Miss Mary C. Perkins of New Sharon. Average attendance, 10.45; wages, $3.00; board, $1.50. Winter term now in session under the same teacher’s charge.

No. 14.—BRIGGS DISTRICT. Agent, Alvin Hardy. No. of scholars, 22. Spring term of 8 weeks taught by Alice Louise Tate; average attendance, 24.45; wages, $2.50; board, $1.50. Winter term now in session with Mr. Owen Hardy of Wilton as teacher.

No. 15.—RUSSELL’S MILLS. Agent, Gideon Locklin. No. of scholars, 28. Spring term of 8 weeks taught by Miss Mabel Crowell of Temple. Average attendance, 11; wages, $2.50; board, $1.45. Winter term of 11 weeks taught by Mrs. Eliza T. Sewall; average attendance, 18; wages, $9.00, including board.

No. 16.—PORTER’S HILL. Agent, Reuben Jones. No. of scholars, 6. Fall term of 12 weeks taught by Miss Katie F. Wilder of Temple. Average attendance, 4.50; wages, $2.00; board, $1.00. Winter term of 6 weeks taught by Miss Minnie O. Stanley. Average attendance, 2.68; wages, $2.00; board $1.00.

No. 17.—BAILEY DISTRICT. Agent, Barnard K. Hovey, Jr. No. of scholars, 17. Spring term of 8 weeks taught by Miss Katie F. Wilder. Average attendance, 7;
wages, $3.00; board, $1.60. Winter term of 12 weeks taught by Miss Sadie A. Ford of Livermore. Average attendance, 11; wages, $4.25; board, $2.00.

No. 18.—Sharon District. Agent, J. Herman Heath. No. of scholars, 23. Spring term of 8 weeks taught by Miss Eva A. Hatch. Average attendance, 6; wages, $2.75; board, $1.75. Winter term of 14 weeks taught by Miss Carrie M. Tolman of New Sharon. Average attendance, 7; wages, $4.25; board, $1.70.

No. 19.—Tilton District. Agent, G. Milton Hatch. No. of scholars, 17. Spring term of 8 weeks taught by Miss Juliet Bailey, of Industry; average attendance, 9; wages, $3.00; board, $1.20. Winter term of 10 weeks taught by the same teacher. Average attendance, 11.55; wages, $4.50; board, $1.10.

No. 20.—Holley District. Agent, Albert Jones. No. of scholars, 17. Spring term of 6 weeks taught by Mrs. Gussie B. Felch. Average attendance, 7; wages $3.00; board, $1.50. Winter term of 12 weeks taught by Miss Pauline Gould of Madrid. Average attendance, 9; wages, $4.00; board, $1.75.

No. 21.—Spaulding District. David M. Spaulding, Agent. No. of scholars, 14. Spring term of 9 weeks taught by Mrs. M. S. Preston. Average attendance, 13; wages, $2.00; board, $1.50. Fall term of 10 weeks taught by the same teacher. Average attendance, 9; wages, $2.25; board, $1.50. Winter term of 7 weeks taught by the same teacher. Average attendance, 7; wages, $2.50; board, $1.50.

No. 22.—Walton's Mills. Agent, Waldron Marble. No. of scholars, 39. Spring term taught by Miss Sadie M. Tuck. Average attendance, 16.84; wages, $4.50 including board. Winter term now in session under the instruction of Miss Mattie Belle Oakes, of Temple.

No. 23.—Union with Chesterville. Agent, Ira V. Chase. No. of scholars, 20.


No. 26.—Smith District. Agent, Dennis H. Smith. No. of scholars, 1.

No. 28.—Union with Industry. Agent, William J. Rackliffe. No. of scholars, 1.

No. 30. Hillman District. Agent, Augustus L. Barker. No. of scholars, 4; Fall term of weeks, taught by Mrs. Alice E. B. Dobbins. Average attendance, 7; wages, $2.50; board, $1.50. Winter term now in session under instruction of Miss Eva A. Hatch.

No. 31.—Union with New Sharon. Agent, W. O. Hargraves. No. of scholars, 5.

Highest wages paid male teacher per month, including board, $100.00. Lowest wages paid male teacher per month, including board, $33.72. Highest wages paid female teacher per week, excluding board, $7.55. Lowest wage paid female teacher per week, excluding board, $2.00. Average wages paid female teachers per week, excluding board, $3.60. No. of terms taught by female teachers, 56. No. of terms taught by male teachers, 10. No. of teachers employed two or more terms in same district, 10.

The general financial statistics relative to school funds are embodied in the report of the Selectmen.

Respectfully submitted,

EVERETT B. NORTON, ELIZA T. SEWALL, LOVE M. N. AMES, of Farmington.

S. S. Committee