Annual Reports of the Selectmen, Treasurer, Auditor, and School Committee, of the Town of Litchfield, for the Year Ending March 1st, 1877

Litchfield (Me.)
ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Selectmen, Treasurer, Auditor, and School Committee,

OF THE

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1ST, 1877.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Litchfield:

Your Selectmen, Assessors, and Overseers of the Poor, for the municipal year ending March 1st, 1877, present the following report, giving the sums received, and from what sources, to meet and pay the payments by the town; also, showing for what purposes and to whom payments have been made.

SCHOOLS.

Sum voted by the town, March 6, 1876, $1,205 00
Balance on Selectmen's book, Feb. 25, 1876, 515 87
State school fund for 1876, 331 62
State school mill tax for 1876, 469 78

$2,522 27

Paid S. S. Committee and others, 2,222 34

Amount of school funds undrawn March 1, 1877, $299 93
INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

ROADS, BRIDGES, ETC.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sum voted by town, March 6, 1876,</td>
<td>$1,000 00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overlayings,</td>
<td>253 06</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delinquent highway taxes from 1874–5,</td>
<td>69 76</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sum voted to repair road in Dist. No. 33,</td>
<td>25 00</td>
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<td>$1,347 82</td>
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Services of town officers for 1875, as allowed by Auditor, $283 44

Wm. G. Williams, recording inventory and assessment, 6 00

Wm. G. Williams, recording births and deaths, 4 40

Proprietors of Lewiston Journal, printing Annual Reports and blank orders, 15 00

Wm. Cunningham, labor on road and bridge in Dist. No. 36, 13 24

Proprietors of Lewiston Journal, inventory papers, Surveyors’ books, stationery, etc., 9 65

Samuel Patten, plank for town use, 22 51

D. S. Springer, Collector’s book for 1876, 1 00

J. W. Robinson and others, labor in rebuilding abutment of Jaqueth bridge, 123 18

H. W. Jewett, lumber on Jaqueth bridge, 12 89

Aaron Peacock and others, ripraping abutment of Jaqueth bridge, 91 62

Jesse Hatch and others, blasting ledges in Dist. No. 26, 7 45

R. J. D. Larrabee and others, lumber and building bridge and abutments to same, in road Dist. No. 2, 26 00

J. T. Bartlett, lumber for bridge in Dist. No. 7, 4 73

Ensign Danforth, labor on road, Dist. No. 34, 3 75

Chester Rhodes, use of derrick on Jaqueth bridge, 2 25
Harry Hutchinson, building Hatten Mill bridge, $13 40
H. Baker and others, labor on road in Dist. No. 33, 21 76
Isaac Smith, plank for bridges and causeways, 10 32
C. H. Hodgkins, stone used for Jaqueth bridge, 22 00
Chas. Jack, labor on road in Dist. No. 26, 8 75
John Patten, labor on road in Dist. No. 26, 2 50
Wm. S. Snow, commission in full for collecting tax of 1874, 100 71
C. H. Robinson, plank for Mill and Jack bridges, 16 26
C. H. Robinson, plank for road in Dist. No. 20, 6 31
D. S. Springer, blanks, postage, and expense, 8 60
Samuel Smith, expense and money paid out, 2 00
Nath'l Dennis, expense as Town Treasurer, 7 75
Abated in Wm. S. Snow's tax bills, 1876, 35 14
" " " " 1875, 14 82
" " " " 1874, 12 00
Abated on delinquent highway tax, 1874, 19 66

$929 09

Balance in favor of town, $418 73

SUPPORT OF POOR.

Sum voted by town for support of poor, $600 00
Supplies over receipts on Poor Farm for the year ending Jan. 1, 1877, $203 64
Paid services of Overseer on Poor Farm for the year ending Jan. 1, 1877, 196 88
Cost on Poor Farm, $400 52
Pauper bills off the Farm:—
Paid for support of Mrs. Higgins, $50 00
Paid for support of Mrs. Kendall, $30 00
Supplies furnished Jas. Ridley and family, 20 57
Paid for support of Mrs. Robinson, 6 50
Cyrus Bosworth, coffin for Robt. Robinson, 15 00

Cost off Poor Farm, $122 07
Cost on Poor Farm, 400 52

Total cost of poor, $522 59
Balance in favor of town, $77 41

STOCK AND PROPERTY ON TOWN POOR FARM,
As estimated by Overseers of Poor, March 1, 1877.
Stock on Poor Farm, $320 00
14 tons of hay, at $10 per ton, 140 00
Provisions, etc., 72 00

$582 00

NAMES AND AGES OF PAUPERS ON POOR FARM.
William Johnson, aged 87 years.
Caroline Howard, " 74 "
Mary Nevins, " 74 "
William Jewell, " 72 "
Julia Tibbetts, " 55 "
Sanford Goodwin, " 52 "
William Danforth, " 54 "
Alonzo Gatchell, " 10 "

Thomas Webber and his wife were hired to take charge of
the Poor Farm and the poor on it for the year ending April 1st,
1877, at $200 per year.

INTEREST ON TOWN DEBT.
Sum voted by town to pay interest on town debt, $400 00
Paid principal and interest on town debt, 1,640 58

Balance over appropriation, $1,240 58
RESOURCES.

To make the various payments of the town the resources have been as follows:

Balance on Selectmen’s book Feb. 25, 1876, $2,909 31
Assessed and committed to Collector and Treasurer, 2,278 06
Loaned to pay note against town, 235 00
Interest received on the Slowman note, 10 50
Delinquent highway taxes from 1874 and 1875, 69 76

$5,502 63

Paid out:

Abatements, roads, bridges and incidentals, $929 09
Support of poor, 522 59
Principal and interest on town debt, 1,640 58

3,092 26

Balance on Selectmen’s book, March 1, 1877, $2,410 37

APPROPRIATIONS.

Schools, $1,205 00
Incidentals, roads and bridges, 1,000 00
Support of poor, 600 00
On town debt, 400 00
To be expended on Road District No. 33, 25 00

$3,230 00

State tax, 1,867 24
County tax, 948 40
Fractional overlay, 253 06

Amount assessed on money tax for 1876, $6,298 70
Amount appropriated for repairs on roads, $4,000 00

D. S. SPRINGER,
SAMUEL SMITH,
MELVIN TIBBETTS,
Selectmen of Litchfield.
TREASURER'S REPORT.

The following report shows the amount of money received and paid out during the municipal year ending March 1st, 1877; also a statement of the town debt, and the amounts due the town from the several Collectors, &c.

Balance in the Treasury, March 1, 1876, $433 45
Received from W. M. Hattin, Collector for 1873, 150 00
from Wm. S. Snow, Collector for 1874, 122 43
from Wm. S. Snow, Collector for 1875, for delinquent highway tax, 3 30
from Wm. S. Snow, Collector for 1875, 2,228 88
from Wm. S. Snow, Collector for 1876, 1,385 25
from Wm. S. Snow, Collector for 1876, supplemental assessment, 4 80
on Slowman note, 135 50
Loaned to pay a demand against the town, 235 00
Received from the State Treasurer, school funds for 1876, 351 70
from State Treasurer, school mill tax for 1876, 469 78

$5,520 09

Paid for support of schools, $2,222 34
on town debt, 1,640 58
for support of poor, 522 59
for incidental town expenses, 951 12
Cash on hand March 1, 1877, 183 46

$5,520 09

STATEMENT OF TOWN DEBT.

Outstanding notes and interest on same, $4,132 38
Due from Geo. W. Sawyer, Collector for 1871, on delinquent highway tax, $7 04
from W. M. Hattin, Collector for 1873, 150 19
Due from W. M. Hattin, delinquent highway taxes, $50.17
from Wm. S. Snow, Collector for 1875, delinquent highway taxes, 53.04
from Wm. S. Snow, Collector for 1875, 16.38
from Wm. S. Snow, Collector for 1875, delinquent highway taxes from 1874, 44.99
from Wm. S. Snow, Collector for 1875, 2,097.81
from Wm. S. Snow, Collector for 1876, delinquent highway taxes from 1874, 31.15
from Wm. S. Snow, Collector for 1876, on delinquent highway taxes from 1875, 38.61
on Slowman's note, 54.83
Cash on hand March 1, 1877, 183.46

$2,727.67

All of which is respectfully submitted.

NATHANIEL DENNIS, Treasurer.

Litchfield, March 1, 1877.
AUDITOR'S REPORT.

Agreeably to the duties assigned, I have examined the books of the Selectmen and Treasurer, for the current year, and find them properly vouched and cast, and they agree.

The Treasurer's accounts show he had cash on hand

March 1st, 1876, $433 45
Received during the year, 5,086 64

$5,520 09

He has paid out during the same time, 5,336 63

Leaving a balance in his hands of $183 46

Your Auditor has examined the accounts of the Town Officers for the now expiring municipal year, and has passed upon the same and allowed them as follows:

D. S. Springer, in full for services as Selectman, Assessor, and Overseer of Poor, $84 50
Samuel Smith, for same service, 71 25
Melvin Tibbetts, for same service, 66 75
Nathaniel Dennis, Treasurer, 27 50
A. C. True, S. S. Committee, 25 00
Henry Taylor, S. S. Committee, 26 75
Elisha Baker, S. S. Committee, 24 75
George W. Earl, Constable, 8 00
Thomas Holmes, Auditor, 2 00

THOMAS HOLMES, Auditor.

Litchfield, March 1st, 1877.
SCHOOL REPORT.

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Litchfield:

Your Superintending School Committee present the following as their annual report for the year ending March 1st, 1877.

FINANCIAL.

Amount of money raised by the town, $1,205 00
Amount of State Fund, 331 62
Amount of Mill Tax, 469 78
Amount unapportioned in 1875, 2 06

Total School Money for 1876, $2,008 46
School Committee bills, and printing reports for 1875, 84 50
Unapportioned, 6 31

Apportioned to the Districts, $1,917 65

DISTRICT No. 1.—J. E. CHASE, Agent.

Amount of money due the district, as per Selectmen's book, March 1, 1876, $130 32
Amount of money apportioned for 1876, 203 01

Total, $333 33
Amount of money expended during the year, 315 33
Amount of money due district, March 1, 1877, $18 00

Summer Term. Miss Alice H. Ham, Wales, Teacher. Whole number of scholars attending, 25. Average number of scholars attending, 22. Length of term, 50 days. Wages of teacher, $5.00 per week. Miss Ham is a teacher of ability, and, having had some experience, she was well qualified to take charge of this school. Her methods of instruction were good, and the school generally made excellent progress under her care. Order was fair. At the
closing examination many of the parents showed their interest by being present in the school-room. The exercises were varied by readings and recitations, which reflected credit upon teacher and pupils. As a school we considered it profitable, and recommend Miss Ham to favorable notice of future Agents.

**Winter Term.** S. A. Melcher, Brunswick, Teacher. Whole number of scholars attending, 31. Average number of scholars attending, 23. Length of term, 40 days. Wages of teacher, including board, $50.00 per month. Mr. Melcher was a young man, and an inexperienced teacher, who received his education in a graded school, hence he was ignorant of the manner of disciplining and instructing a mixed school, but he labored hard to make his school advantageous to all. The Committee gave him advice, by which he in a measure profited, with success in some particulars. One class in Algebra did well. Reading classes, especially composed of small scholars, did not make the improvement we would wish or believe they might have made. The closing exhibition showed that select reading and recitation had received especial attention. The teacher complained that one class in reading had only two books, and yet the parents objected to getting new ones. We trust the parents will supply all necessary books in the future.

**DISTRICT No. 2.—Dexter Danforth, Agent.**

Amount of money due the District, March 1, 1876, as per Selectmen's book, $73 49
Amount apportioned for 1876, 88 86
Total, $162 35
Amount of money expended during the year, 118 65
Amount of money due district March 1, 1877, 43 70

**Summer Term.** Miss Nellie A. Jackson, Teacher. Whole number of scholars attending, 18. Average number of scholars attending, 15. Length of term—. Wages of teacher, $3.00 per week. This school is small and backward. We had confidence in Miss Jackson's ability to teach a good school, although she had never taught. She was pleasant in the school-room, thereby gaining the respect and love of her pupils, who showed their good will by trying to please her. All seemed interested, and the school made good progress. The term closed at the end of ten weeks. After a short vacation she renewed her labors for sixteen weeks, with equal if not greater success.
DISTRICT No. 3.—WILLIAM BUKER, Agent.

Amount of money due the district, March 1, 1876, as per Selectmen's book, $16 84
Amount apportioned for 1876, 132 64
Total, $149 48
Amount expended, 157 03
Amount overdrawn, $7 55

Summer Term. Miss Addie A. Williams, Bowdoin, Teacher.
Whole number of scholars attending, —. Average number attending, —. Length of term, — days. Wages of teacher, $—.— per week. Rarely do we find a teacher better versed in the texts of our modern school books than Miss W., and in our minds we conceived that, with experience as a teacher and a thorough drill in analysis, none will excel her in efficiency as an instructor. At our visits here we almost forgot our trials as Committee, and deemed the moments in a teacher's life all sunshine; for the deportment, exercises, and everything else connected with the school were worthy our approbation.

Winter Term. Henry Taylor, Teacher. Whole number of scholars attending, 21. Average number attending, 18. Length of term, 45 days. Wages of teacher, $35.00 per month. This school needed the services of an able and experienced teacher. Having been under the instruction of A. C. True for the two previous winters, the scholars were ready to receive that continued thorough teaching without which they would not be contented. At our last visit we found part of the district assembled to witness the closing exercises. Classes in Algebra and Arithmetic worked problems and explained principles, showing they were deeply interested in their studies, and had labored with success. Class in Grammar gave clear analysis, and well understood the formation of sentences. Mr. Taylor has given such thorough and practical training that the instructed will be slow to forget the principles he taught.

DISTRICT No. 4.—E. BUKER, Agent.

Amount of money due the district, March 1, 1876, as per Selectmen's books, $16 11
Amount apportioned for 1876, 119 45
Total, $135 56
Amount expended during the year, 107 80
Amount due the district, March 1, 1877, $27 76
Summer Term. Miss Nellie E. Webber, Teacher. Whole number of scholars attending, 20. Average number attending, 16. Length of term, 30 days. Wages of teacher, $2.50 per week. No person is expected at the first attempt to successfully compete with those who have carefully examined and conscientiously discharged the ordinary duties of life; much less can it be expected that a teacher at the first trial will bring to light so many mysteries as those whose judgements have received the imprint of maturity, and whose theories have stood the test of severe critics and the stern realities of long practice. We believe Miss Webber did all in her power to quicken the intellects of those under her care and enliven the dullness which usually pervades the school hours of extreme youth. Classes in Reading composed of small scholars evinced more attention to their instruction and love for their work than we ever noticed before in this school. Some very small scholars read finely in concert. The other classes made fair improvement.

Winter Term. J. E. Cutter, Webster, Teacher. Whole number of scholars attending, 32. Average number attending, 23. Length of term, 38 days. Wages of teacher, $30.00 per month. The teacher here found the school restless and uneasy, requiring a strong effort on his part to secure that attention in their studies which would insure success. At the close of the term we found part of the scholars had made fair improvement in Reading and Arithmetic, while others had not made the progress that they might have made had the teacher aroused them to greater exertion.

DISTRICT No. 5.—Zebulon Douglass, Agent.

Amount of money overdrawn, March 1, 1876, as per Selectmen's books, $9 55
Amount apportioned for 1876, 130 00

Total, $120 45
Amount expended during year, 120 31
Amount due district March 1, 1877, $0 14

Summer Term. Miss Mattie L. Ware, West Gardiner, Teacher. Whole number of scholars attending, 21. Average number of scholars attending, 16. Length of term, 45 days. Wages of teacher, $4.00 per week. Perhaps no person understood better than Miss Ware what this school needed at the commencement, for she had had it in charge for two previous terms with complimentary results; therefore she had only to continue her methodical manner in order to make herself still stronger in the confidence of the parents of this
district and the visiting committee, and more useful to the general
and special good of the school. At our last visit we were happy to
realize as facts all we anticipated. All appeared to have received
the attention needed, and kindly required to perform those offices
that are always necessary to elevate the intellectual and social sphere
of children. We congratulate the district, and hope you will be
mindful of the future.

Winter Term. Same teacher. Whole number of scholars attend­
ing, 26. Average number of scholars attending, 21. Length of
term, 50 days. Wages of teacher, including board, $7.00 per week.
It is only necessary to inform all interested that Miss W.'s work here
this term was just as commendable as in any previous term, and we
believe this assertion will meet the approval of all.

DISTRICT No. 6.—Orrin A. True, Agent.

Amount of money due district, March 1, 1876, as per Se­
lectmen's books, $110 48
Amount apportioned, 130 00

Total, $240 48
Amount expended during year, 241 35
Amount overdrawn, March 1, 1877, $0 87

Summer Term. Miss Lizzie M. Walker, Monmouth, Teacher.
Whole number of scholars attending, 16. Average number of schol­
ers attending, 13. Length of term, 35 days. Wages of teacher, $3.50 per week. At our opening visit we were gratified to note good
order. Teacher and scholars seemed to be heartily united in their
work, and we felt if this could be sustained till the close of the term
we could report a large degree of credit to them. At the closing
visit we found the Reading and Geography classes had made fair
improvement, although we thought there was some abatement in the
unity and interest.

Winter Term. Albert C. True, Teacher. Whole number of
scholars attending, 15. Average number of scholars attending, 15.
Length of term, 51 days. Wages of teacher, including board,
$35.00 per month. With Mr. True's experience as a teacher we ex­
pected scholars to get an extra amount of discipline in their studies.
His scholars were young in years, but ladies and gentlemen both in
deportment and in recitation. Scholars from thirteen to fifteen
completed Greenleaf's Elementary Algebra and Greenleaf's Practical
Arithmetic, and were ready to explain any question or principle in a
clear and comprehensive manner. A class in Grammar gave us good analysis and were able to repeat and number the rules. Geography was taught practically, and the scholars handled it with honor to themselves and teachers. Considering the age of the scholars in this school (10 years 9½ months average), there had been more and better work accomplished than we expected. We think scholars, parents, and teacher should be well consoled with the result.

DISTRIBUTION No. 7.—FRANK L. BUKER, Agent.

Amount of money due district, March 1, 1876, as per Selectmen's books, $281.00
Amount apportioned for 1876, 155.80
Total, $158.81
Amount expended during the year, 159.75
Overdrawn March 1, 1877, $1.14

Summer Term. Miss Mabel C. Spear, Lisbon, Teacher. Whole number of scholars attending, 20. Average number of scholars attending, 16. Length of term, 45 days. Wages of teacher, $4.00. Miss Spear is a teacher of some experience. She obtained good order at the commencement of the term, which was sustained throughout the term. The teacher displayed much energy, which, being contagious, affected the scholars to such a degree as to render them highly industrious.

Winter Term. S. E. Mosely, Lewiston, Teacher. Whole number of scholars attending, 21. Average number of scholars attending, 19. Length of term, 50 days. Wages of teacher, $27.00 per month. Had there been more animation on the part of the teacher, more time spent upon the rudiments (principles and analysis), the scholars would have received more benefit and we able to report more favorable. At the close we found classes unable to explain those things which are required in the knowledge of Arithmetic. There was fair progress in Reading and Grammar.

DISTRIBUTION No. 8.—RUSSEL NILES, Agent.

Amount of money due district, March 1, 1876, as per Selectmen's books, $14.48
Amount apportioned, 38.00
Total, $52.48
Amount expended during the year, $50.00
Amount due the district, March 1, 1877, 2.48
Summer Term. Miss Clara E. Wyman, Teacher. Whole number of scholars attending, 13. Average number of scholars attending, 11. Wages of teacher, $3.00 per week. Length of term, 50 days. We found this school composed of scholars from several districts. The members were young and small, and at our first visit were quite restless. At our last visit they were improved in appearance, more diligent in their studies, and by their answers they demonstrated the results of good work. We call this a good school, and shall welcome the teacher in a larger school.

No Winter Term.

DISTRICT No. 9.—SOLOMON WESTON, Agent.

Amount of money due district, March 1, 1876, as per Selectmen's books, $69 42
Amount apportioned for 1876, 163 23
Total, $232 65
Amount expended during the year, 136 50
Amount due district, March 1, 1877, $96 15

Summer Term. Miss L. C. Smith, Teacher. Whole number of scholars attending, 27. Average number of scholars attending, 24. Length of term, 35 days. Wages of teacher, including board, $6.00 per week. We have had several opportunities of reporting Miss Smith in past years, and these reports have invariably contained one sentiment—that of her entire success as a patient, energetic, and thorough teacher. This term was a simile of her previous terms, for no teacher with Miss S.'s education, energy, and ability can be unfortunate in her calling. Miss S. is one of the few teachers who instruct orally to much extent, but she has to a creditable degree. The order was good. The recitations were conducted in a plain and concise manner. We trust Miss S.'s services will be secured in town so long as she continues the present occupation.

Winter Term. W. B. Cutter, Webster, Teacher. Whole number of scholars attending, 30. Average number of attending, 27. Length of term, 33 days. Wages of teacher, $28 per month. Mr. Cutter entered this school clad with a superior education, and aided by a large and varied experience—this being his thirty-first school; therefore the district had good reason for anticipating a first-class school, and the Committee were led to hope that the rare fertility of the teacher's mind would be seen, studied, and appreciated by all with whom he might associate; that they, too, might gather the fruits which will always come by hard, patient, and long continued study. From some cause (not understood by the Committee) some members
of the district became dissatisfied, and entered complaint to the Committee. Two members visited, but found no cause to expel; but Mr. C., thinking his labors were not well understood, and were not yielding what he desired, resigned his charge. Those scholars who were faithful to their duties made good improvement. We sincerely hope if there is any prejudice existing—if there are feelings of envy, jealousy, or opposition among the inhabitants—they will be laid aside before the beginning of another term.

DISTRICT NO. 10.—GEO. W. SAWYER, Agent.

Amount of money due district, March 1, 1876, as per Selectmen’s books, $13 29
Amount apportioned for 1876, 113 56
Total, $126 85
Amount expended during year, 98 25
Amount due district, March 1, 1877, $28 60

Summer Term. Miss Lizzie L. Sawyer, Teacher. Whole number of scholars attending, 18. Average number attending, 15. Length of term, 40 days. Wages of teacher, $3.80 per week. Miss Sawyer’s first attempt as instructor of youth was made in this district, and the parents so esteemed her services that the agent employed her for this term. She taught her young children many practical ideas and lessons, outside the dull routine of the text-books, which will be very useful in life out of the school. Classes in Reading gave unmistakable evidence that they had journeyed carefully upon the right road, in the right direction.

Winter Term. E. F. Dow, Teacher. Whole number of scholars attending, 25. Average number of scholars attending, 15. Length of term, 38 days. Wages of teacher, $23 per month. At our first visit we found everything favorable for a prosperous term, order good, and scholars diligent in their studies, and those whom we found present at the end of the term had made good progress.

DISTRICT No. 11.—GEORGE PLIMPTON, Agent.

Amount of money due district, March 1, 1876, as per Selectmen’s books, $18 25
Amount apportioned for 1876, 185 00
Total, $203 25
Amount expended during the year, 182 61
Amount due district, March 1, 1877, $20 64
Summer Term. Miss Lilla L. Smith, Teacher. We saw no change in Miss L. since last year, save for the better, therefore we felt assured that much good would be imparted and received during this term. She entered the school with the determination to leave nothing unfinished that would add to the welfare of those under her charge, and by careful study into the wants of them she was able to supply all needs as they appeared. One class in Grammar deserved especial notice, also a class in Arithmetic. All the other classes appeared and recited much to their credit.

Winter Term. Henry Taylor, Teacher. Whole number of scholars attending, 39. Average number of scholars attending, 35. Length of term, 8 weeks. Wages of teacher, $—. Those who are acquainted with Mr. Taylor and his modes of conducting a school we believe will confirm the statement that he will not be out of place in any mixed school. That he was to lead this school we knew was a beacon of a model school, and all concerned will testify to this fact, although he had many surrounding influences that were calculated to lead the minds of the influenced from their books. However, Mr. T. did not fail to get the ascendancy and led them in the proper course, which the closing examination fully showed. There is a characteristic in this school that we like. Many of the scholars are ready to answer even if they make a mistake. In many cases a mistake in answering is better than silence, as the former may be corrected at once. All classes appeared so well that we do not think it necessary to particularize. We hope the district will have just such schools the coming year.

DISTRICT No. 12.—T. H. SPRINGER, Agent.

Amount of money due district, March 1, 1876, as per Selectmen's books, $1 43
Amount apportioned for 1876, 110 33
Total, $111 75
Amount expended during the year, 109 00
Amount of money due district, March 1, 1877, $2 75

Summer Term. Miss Lizzie Ashford, Teacher. Whole number of scholars attending, 17. Average number of scholars attending, 12. Length of term, 40 days. Wages of teacher, $3.00 per week. This is Miss Ashford's own district, but we found her performing her duties as though she understood them. The scholars were quiet and studious, but of the result we are unable to report, as we did not receive the notice of the close until too late.
Winter Term. E. P. Springer, Teacher. Whole number of scholars attending, 13. Average number of scholars attending, 12. Length of term, 60 days. Wages of teacher, $22.00 per month. For several years this has been one of the easiest and pleasantest schools in town. Take no advantage of favors granted to make the labors of the teacher more arduous, but on the other hand striving to gather as much knowledge as possible every moment. Your Committee enjoyed the closing visit very much. We noticed one boy who completed the Elementary Algebra, and a class completed the Arithmetic. The class in Grammar was very good. Really there is a vast difference between a good and a poor school, as the condition here clearly illustrates.

DISTRICT No. 13.—WILLIAM DUSTIN, Agent.

Amount of money due district March 1, 1876, as per
Selectmen's books,
Amount apportioned for 1876,

Total, $100 00
Amount expended during the year, 100 00

Summer Term. Miss Etta M. Holmes, Teacher. Whole number of scholars attending, 9. Average number of scholars attending, 7. Length of term, 40 days. Wages of teacher, $2.00 per week. This school is small in number but very interesting. The order this term was good. Classes were well arranged, and those members who attended punctually during the term made fair progress.

Winter Term. J. D. Bucker, Teacher. Whole number of scholars attending, 14. Average number of scholars attending, 10. Length of term not given in register. Wages of teacher, $22.00 per month. This school this term, though larger than in Summer, was still small but well advanced. Mr. Bucker loves the work of a teacher, and commenced the work here with a strong resolution to have a good school, and he succeeded. The scholars in this district had always been faithful and they did not make an exception of this term. Mr. Bucker is an earnest worker in the school-room, and he made this term a perfect success. One class in Arithmetic commenced the study and advanced as far as Factoring, and could analyze every principle they had been over. The closing examination showed that the teacher and scholars had not misimproved their time.
DISTRICT No. 14.—SUMNER CLARK, Agent.

Amount of money due district, March 1, 1876, as per Selectmen's book, $21 85
Amount apportioned for 1876, 125 00

Total, $146 85
Amount expended during year, 85 17

Amount due district, March 1, 1877, $61 68

Summer Term. Miss Ella Fogg, Teacher. Whole number of scholars attending, —. Average number attending, —. Length of Term, — days. Wages of Teacher, —. This was Miss Fogg's first attempt to lead a school. Her large scholars were quiet and devoted to their studies. The smaller ones were a little restless. Miss Fogg tried hard to perform her duty and make her school pleasant. She readily gained the good will of her scholars and their parents, and all worked harmoniously together. We think this a profitable school.

Winter Term. Miss Vesta Bassford of Monmouth commenced and taught the school two weeks, when, for reasons best known to herself, she declined to continue. Then Wendell Adams was employed to finish the school, who after a few days also left. Neither returned registers, hence we have no further information to give concerning their work. Charles Newell has the school now in charge. At our first visit we thought it would require considerable will, tact, and judgment to place the school in a condition to do its best; for interruptions and change of teachers leave their weighty influence upon any school. At our second visit we found the order fair, interest on the part of most, and instruction good.

DISTRICT No. 15.—G. H. JACK, Agent.

Amount of money due district, March 1, 1876, as per Selectmen's books, $21 31
Amount apportioned for 1876, 132 00

Total, $153 31
Amount expended during the year, 155 07

Amount overdrawn, March 1, 1877, $1 76

Summer Term. Miss Augusta H. Edgecomb, Teacher. Whole number of scholars attending, 31. Average number of scholars attending, 26. Length of term, 50 days. Wages of teacher, including
board, $6.00 per week. When we learned that the agent of this
district had secured the services of Miss E. we felt confident that he
had employed the right person for the right place. Miss E. is a fine
scholar and has natural ability for a teacher. At the commencement
we found the school well systematized, classes well arranged, and all
interested. The teacher was energetic and critical in her instruc-
tion, so we expected great results during the term. At the final ex-
amination we were not disappointed. All classes made good im-
provement. We believe no school in town was more successful.

*Winter Term.* W. O. Plimpton, Teacher. Whole number of
scholars attending, 36. Average number of scholars attending, 31.
Length of term, 40 days. Wages of teacher, $27.00 per month.
Mr. P. is a good scholar, fresh from the school room, as a scholar
desirous of knowing every department of study that will aid him as
a teacher or a financier, and very active in giving instruction and
advice to pupils. Any person possessing these qualities, combined
with a character above reproach, must prosper in everything he
undertakes. Reading classes were exceedingly accurate. Arithme-
tic was used in such a manner as to meet our hearty acceptance.
The Geography class was well versed, especially in its own State.
Two young ladies in analysis and parsing were very interesting.
We were also much gratified to meet many of the inhabitants of the
district at the closing examination. We do not think this district
ever had two more profitable schools in one year.

**SCHOLARS NOT ABSENT ONE HALF DAY.**

**DISTRICT No. 1.**

*Summer Term.* Carrie E. Lyle, Effie S. Lyle, Little S. Perry,
Addie A. Earle, Mary Larrabee, Mertie Snow, Dexter White.

*Winter Term.* Willie Knight.

**DISTRICT No. 2.**

*Summer Term.* Abbie S. Danforth, Mary S. Danforth, George
Danforth, Alanson Danforth, Willie Mitchell.

**DISTRICT No. 3.**

*Summer Term.* Names not given.

*Winter Term.* Fred Webber, Henry Payne, Eddie Ring, Emma
Grover, Etta Wyman, Minnie Payne.

**DISTRICT No. 4.**

*Summer Term.* Names not returned.

*Winter Term.* Fred Sylvester, Mark Gatchell.
DISTRICT NO. 5.


Winter Term. Irving J. Ware, Willie T. Woodbury, Frank W. Woodbury, Minnie Sawyer.

DISTRICT NO. 6.

Summer Term. John B. True, Clinton G. True, Mattie Cunningham, Mary True, Effie B. True, Hattie True, Clara Dill.


DISTRICT NO. 7.

Summer Term. Jennie Berry, Nellie Berry.

Winter Term. Frank N. Berry, Clara Robinson, Jennie Berry, Leva Berry.

DISTRICT NO. 8.

Summer Term. Willard Jack.

DISTRICT NO. 9.

Summer Term. Eugene Harriman, Willie Stevens, Adelbert Harriman, Blanche Weston, Ellen E. Gatellell, Estella Stevens, Lizzie N. Stevens, Hattie Stevens, Clara Robinson.

Winter Term. Fred A. Jack, Mary A. Weston, Lizzie M. Stevens, Ellen E. Gatellell.

DISTRICT NO. 10.


Winter Term. Emery Baker.

DISTRICT NO. 11.


DISTRICT NO. 12.


Winter Term. Names not given.
DISTRICT No. 13.

Summer Term. Names not given.
Winter Term. Bennie Holman.

DISTRICT No. 14.

Summer Term. Lilla B. Randall, Emma A. Maxwell, Anna Allen.

DISTRICT No. 15.


REMARKS.

In closing our report we would extend our thanks to those parents who have aided us in our suggestions and stragglings and the teachers in their duties. Although all your schools have not been what we strove to have them they average better than last year, and we are pleased with the thought that the most successful teachers are either residents or acquainted with the schools of Litchfield and are within the reach of future agents. Good teachers can be procured, but not always by remaining at home, applying to those who rarely or never enter the school room while the school is in session, or who are governed by pecuniary purposes. Your schools are different from those of many other towns, hence a teacher acquainted with them will do better work than a stranger with equal text-book qualifications. A person may succeed in a graded school or an academy, and fail in a mixed country school. A college professor or president may understand the requirements of his own class or college and be ignorant of the real urgent needs of your schools.

For eighteen years we have had the Progressive series of Readers. Since then several different editions have been issued, which have caused much confusion in the recitations. The condition of the books was poor. The selections had become stale; in fact, scholars and teachers had become tired and many disgusted with them. Yielding to this important argument we examined a number of series of Readers, and unanimously decided that in our judgment the Franklin was best fitted for our schools, and we suggested a change for this series. Districts Nos. 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12 and 13 entered heartily
into the work and made the change entire; Districts Nos. 3 and 15 partially. We know those who made the change have already been ten-fold paid for the trifling expense. Parents, consider a moment, and you will view it as your Committee do, we think.

Let us all put forth a stronger effort to aid those who need to be guided along the temptations period of youth.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ALBERT C. TRUE,
HENRY TAYLOR,
ELISHA BAKER,
Superintending School Committee.

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THE SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Will be in session at one of the rooms of Litchfield Academy, the first and last Saturdays in May, and the first and last Saturdays in November, for the examination of teachers. None need apply at any other time.