

1876

# Annual Report of the Board of Selectmen and Supervisor of Schools of the Town of Topsham, for the Year Ending March 11, 1876

Topsham (Me.)

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

AND

SUPERVISOR OF SCHOOLS

OF THE

TOWN OF TOPSHAM,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 11, 1876.

1876.

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TELEGRAPH PRESS, BRUNSWICK.

## SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

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We, the Selectmen of the Town of Topsham, respectfully submit the following Report in relation to the financial affairs of the Town, setting forth the Receipts and Expenditures from March 6, 1875, to March 11, 1876, together with the resources, liabilities and present indebtedness of the town.

### APPROPRIATIONS AND RECEIPTS.

For State tax of 1875,	\$3,524 71
County tax of 1875,	1,299 48
Common Schools,	1,300 00
High School,	500 00
Highways and Bridges,	500 00
Poor and other expenses,	2,000 00
Debts and Interest,	4,000 00
Fire Department,	300 00
Cistern,	300 00
Overlayings,	271 32
Uncollected highway tax of 1874.	473 63
	<hr/> \$14,459 24

Cash from State School Fund,	\$778 31	
Town fund, interest,	40 04	
State for High School.	500 00	
State for new Railroad tax,	95 53	
Loans,	250 00	
City of Bath,	60 00	
Town of Brunswick,	101 52	
Town of Freeport,	15 50	
Individuals	417 18	
Rent of Toll House,	33 00	
Due from C. E. White, Mar. 6, 1875,	198 56	
J. F. Whitney, " 1875,	288 35	
F. W. Dearborn, " 1875,	10,674 95	
Outstanding orders Mar. 11, 1876,	346 31	
	<hr/>	\$13,899 25
		<hr/>
		\$28,258 49

## EXPENDITURES.

Paid balance of State tax of 1874,	\$1,479 98	
County tax of 1875, in full,	1,299 48	
State tax of 1875, in part,	2,719 53	
Common schools,	2,190 92	
High school for teaching,	990 00	
Poor out of the house,	751 75	
Town Farm,	396 57	
Highways and Bridges,	2,394 50	
Abatements,	532 03	
Fire Department,	490 93	
Discount for prompt payment of taxes,	409 71	
Interest,	584 51	
Coupons on Town Bonds,	897 00	
Notes, (\$100 by order),	3,000 00	
Miscellaneous expenses,	1,430 07	
Due from C. E. White, Mar. 11, 1876,	121 96	
J. F. Whitney, " 1876,	182 94	
F. W. Dearborn, " 1876,	8,253 33	
Outstanding orders, Mar. 6, 1875,	133 28	
	<hr/>	\$28,258 49

## SCHOOL ACCOUNT.

By Balance corrected, Mar. 6, 1875.	\$334 55	
Appropriation,	1,300 00	
State fund,	778 31	
Town fund,	40 04	
	<hr/>	\$2,452 90

## BILLS PAID.

E. B. Earle, for two scholars,	\$9 39
Bartholomew Reed, wood,	16 50
Joseph Coombs, wood,	11 00
Richard Adams, wood,	10 00
Joseph Whitney, labor and material,	4 50
A. L. Whitehouse, labor and material,	12 05
F. Berry, repairing tables,	6 00
Jacob Graves, wood,	7 00
Edward Berry, labor on school house,	2 50
Anice Additon, cleaning school house,	2 00
Given & Stone, blackboards,	8 25
Orlando Dyer, care of school house,	9 75
Calvin Dyer, labor and material,	3 50
John Furbish, supplies,	2 84
Ira Leland, books, &c.,	8 25
David Work, shingles for yellow school house,	30 75
S. M. Whitney, repairs and care of house,	5 00
Peter Baldwin, labor on house,	8 00
G. L. Wilson, repairs on house,	1 00
Wm. H. Mallett, labor on house,	9 00
Given & Stone, repairs on high school house,	12 50
George S. Adams, wood,	6 50
Jacob Graves, wood,	20 00
Orlando Dyer, care of school house,	10 50
H. P. Mallett, shingles,	4 00
I. E. Mallett, labor and material,	1 00
William Gardiner, sawing wood,	1 50
Willie J. Haley, sawing wood,	3 00

Albion S. Jack, wood,	15 25	
Harvey Stetson, supplies,	10 00	
B. G. Dennison, supplies.	6 00	
John Furbish, supplies,	2 28	
Bert Stone, care of house,	4 50	
James Johnson, care of house,	14 50	
Eddie W. Mallett, care of house,	1 75	
Willie A. Alexander, care of house,	2 25	
I. S. Balcome, sundry materials,	8 09	
Wm. S. Rogers, repairs,	1 27	
Howland Brothers, wood,	84 00	
James Tarbox, wood,	12 75	
E. B. Earle, allowance for 3 scholars,	14 08	
Albert M. Graves, building fires,	2 25	
Charles E. White, supplies,	10 67	
	<hr/>	\$531 92

## FOR TEACHING.

Martha W Curtis,	\$155 00	
M. L. Whitney,	80 00	
Mary E Mallett,	143 00	
Emma F. Mallett,	200 00	
Emily A. Thompson,	159 00	
Abbie E. Thompson,	80 00	
Emily J. Whitten,	204 00	
F. E. Potter,	143 00	
Mary E. Leland,	48 00	
Abbie E. Hunter,	45 00	
Lulie F. Getchell,	44 00	
Fannie M. Woodward,	111 00	
Lettie Plummer,	40 00	
Orlando Dyer,	72 00	
Palmer C. Thompson,	67 50	
William S. Rogers,	67 50	
	<hr/>	\$1,659 00
		<hr/>
		2,190 92
Balance,		261 98
		<hr/>
		\$2,452 90

## HIGH SCHOOL.

By Appropriation, 1875,	\$500 00	
Amount received from State,	500 00	
	<hr/>	\$1,000 00
Paid Lincoln A. Rogers,	750 00	
Annie M. Tate,	240 00	
Overpaid last year,	56 00	
	<hr/>	\$1,046 00

On account of the difference in the time of beginning and ending the State school year, and the Town school year, an error occurred in the last year's report concerning the High School, as will be seen in the resources. It says, "Due from the State for High School, year 1873, \$198 00." We have ascertained that this was not the fact, and the true report at present is as above stated.

## HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

Amount appropriated,	\$500 00	
tax of 1874 committed,	463 73	
Excess,	1,430 77	
	<hr/>	\$2,394 50

## BILLS PAID.

James Mustard,	\$13 75
E. B. Earle,	14 41
David Flagg,	11 50
J. P. C. Fall,	6 37
C. E. White,	1 04
John Knight,	11 16
M. P. Reed,	1 40
Wm. H. Mallett,	3 60
J. R. Jewett,	5 00
William Barron,	2 75
M. P. Reed,	2 00
George H. Glass,	2 00
O. A. Corey,	3 00
Richard Tarr,	11 00

James Wilson,	5 90
Daniel S. Blake,	9 53
W. H. Mallett,	6 80
E. B. Earle,	2 20
Zina H. Noyes,	36 98
Isaac T. Allen,	7 10
Albion S. Jack,	16 39
Elbridge Hunter,	1 82
Dwinal Powers,	35 64
Oliver F. Thompson.	15 21
E. C. Mallett,	29 97
Brice M. Patten,	31 32
Henry W. Haley.	5 53
Robert P. Whitney.	76
A. D. Crocker,	18 77
Holman Foster.	14 70
C. E. Mustard,	30 51
Alfred C. Graves,	20 99
Woodbury E. Tate,	66 12
Josiah M. Staples,	6 64
J. F. Cox.	15 30
S. A. Maynard.	23 80
Elbridge Cornish,	98 72
David H. Flagg.	8 50
Given & Stone.	90
R. O. Hunter,	9 94
Charles E. White,	103 45
Elbridge Cornish,	23 00
George Fuller,	22 50
H. B. Cobb,	117 00
Edward Berry,	19 68
W. E. Dunlap,	28 00
Chas. M. Strout,	19 50
Hewry W. Preston,	14 25
Jerry F. Whitney,	16 12
E. C. Wilson,	6 00



T. R. Ridley,	34 12
Zina H Noyes,	200 00
E. B. Earle,	10 00
Peter Baldwin,	3 00
M. P. Reed,	32 32
C. S. Whitney,	30 75
R. P. Whitney,	39
Charles Foster,	4 97
Ira Robinson,	6 75
G. O. Rogers,	88 97
Ira Robinson,	17 00
David H. Flagg,	16 00
Z. H. Noyes,	98 00
Benjamin T. Roberts,	21 00
Holman Staples,	39 05
Colby & White,	16 00
H. P. Mallett,	27 24
John R. Jewett,	26 58
R. Ridley,	38 62
Wm. K. Hildreth,	2 00
Arthur Berry Son & Co.,	35 60
Harvey Berry,	5 00
Thomas H. Staples,	5 94
Rufus Patten,	26 82
W. H. Mallett,	61 75
Zina H. Noyes,	25 00
Zina H. Noyes,	73 24
Samuel Stockman,	8 63
Howland Brothers,	1 00
Purinton & Hall,	441 01
Charles E. White,	19 23
	<hr/> \$2,394 50

## ENGINE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT.

By appropriation,	\$300 00
Overdrawn,	220 05
	<hr/>
	\$520 05
To balance overdrawn, year 1874,	\$29 12
C. H. Small, monthly pay,	69 75
C. E. White, supplies,	2 08
D. A. Haskell, ground rent,	10 00
John Murray, ladders,	39 00
Edward Berry, care of engine,	5 00
Peter Baldwin, work on house,	9 00
Wm. H. Mallett, “	8 00
E. Colby & Son, shingles,	6 00
E. Berry, repairs on house,	4 00
R. P. Whitney,	25
E. Berry, care of engine,	3 00
Colby & White, lumber,	8 00
Hose Co., Boston, Hose,	53 25
H. P. Mallett, shingles,	7 50
F. H. Purinton, repairs on engine,	25 72
D. A. Hall, supplies,	14 10
E. Berry, care of engine,	7 00
Purinton & Hall, lumber,	2 00
D. A. Hall, monthly pay and fires,	208 25
C. E. White, supplies,	1 84
“ “	7 19
	<hr/>
	\$520 05

## MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

Paid Collins P. Thompson, highway watering place,	₹ 3 00
Ephraim Griffin, care of hearse &c.,	6 71
Otis F. Thompson, surveying road,	1 50
D. Scribner & C. E. Haskell, auditing accounts,	3 00
A. W. Dennett, services as town clerk,	20 00
Chas. W. Purinton, services as Selectman,	6 75
I. E. Mallett, services as Selectman,	9 75
Cyrus Flagg, brick for aqueduct,	4 22
Chas. H. Small, posting warrants,	1 50
Danl. F. Potter, services as School Committee,	58 43
A. G. Tenney, printing town report,	45 25
Benjamin Wilson, watering trough 4 yrs,	9 00
Zina Noyes, rocks for cistern,	2 00
Charles E. Haskell, work in Selectmen's office,	9 00
Ira Lelaud, services, School Committee,	41 50
Ira Leland, services, School Committee,	37 50
Charles H. Small, constable services,	o 60
Given & Stone, repairs on toll house	1 80
Joseph A. Purinton, services,	1 90
Dresser, McLellan & Co., Portland, books,	2 92
A. D. Wheeler, Sup. School Committee,	22 50
Alfred A. Purinton, nails and stationery,	4 48
Andrew T. Campbell, damage, toll bridge,	80 00
Jane H. Hunter, maintaining watering place,	3 00
I. E. Mallett, services Selectman	45 00
C. W. Purinton, services Selectman,	70 00
Calvin C. Hussey, damage to horse,	15 00
Charles E. White, services, Selectman,	50 00
W. H. Mallett, aqueduct,	2 00
E. Colby & Son, shingles and sundries	5 00
R. P. Whitney, sundries for office,	1 81
I. E. Mallett, services, Selectman	23 16
H. P. Thompson, rent of office,	30 00
Chas. W. Wilson, services town clerk,	10 00
Thomas Whitehouse, damage by derrick,	1 00
Dresser, McLellan & Co., order book,	3 25
Lemuel C. Small, painting signs,	9 00
Inhabitants of Topsham, use of Agricultural Hall,	25 00

C. W. Purinton, services, Town Agent,	27 80
I. E. Mallett, perambulating town line,	1 25
C. W. Purinton, paid County Commissioners,	3 25
J. E. Tedford, viewing new road,	3 00
C. H. Small, for collecting old taxes,	10 00
F. W. Dearborn, expense to Augusta,	3 50
Charles E. White, services in office,	24 00
Charles E. White, services in office,	13 20
Charles E. White, services in office,	5 00
F. W. Dearborn, commission for collecting taxes,	86 15
F. W. Dearborn, Treasurer's salary,	25 00
	<hr/> \$873 68

## LAW EXPENSES.

S. D. Linsey, Seth Tebbetts case,	\$16 00
T. M. Giveen, pending suits,	50 00
C. W. Purinton, Tebbetts case,	18 80
C. H. Small, summoning witnesses,	60 00
T. M. Giveen, witness fees,	10 00
Charles H. Small, Town vs. Lisbon,	5 14
T. M. Giveen, " "	30 00
C. L. Wilson, Town vs. H. P. Mallett,	2 70
Court Auditors, " "	80 00
C. W. Purinton, Lisbon Case,	16 50
T. M. Giveen, " "	10 00
J. Merrow, " "	6 90
George Barron, Brown & McCallister,	27 00
H. P. Mallett, Execution and interest,	28 95
I. K. Estes, Lisbon case,	1 50
C. J. Noyes, " "	27 50
Geo. L. Vose, " "	30 00
Town of Canaan, Tebbetts case,	60 00
T. M. Giveen, Lisbon case,	30 00
I. P. Tebbetts, Mallett case,	40 30
J. Williams, Lisbon case,	1 50
Benjamin Thompson, Mallett case,	3 60
	<hr/> \$556 39
	<hr/> \$1,430 07

## NOTES.

Amount of outstanding notes reported at beginning of the year	
Mar. 6 1875,	\$10,046 09
Amount given during the year,	250 00
	<hr/>
	\$10,296 09
Paid Thomas C. Maxwell (100 by order)	\$300 00
Chas. W. Purinton,	400 00
Winship R. Libbey,	900 00
Ellen Eastman,	1,200 00
Chas. F. Hardie,	100 00
J. C. Cox,	100 00
	<hr/>
	\$3,000 00
Amount outstanding Mar. 11th 1876	\$7,296 09

## INTEREST ACCOUNT.

Amount paid on notes,	\$584 51
Amount of coupons paid on town bonds,	897 00
	<hr/>
Interest,	1481 51
Notes,	3,000 00
	<hr/>
“Debts and Interest”	4,481 51
Appropriated,	4,000 00
	<hr/>
	481 51

In the year 1874 the town voted to raise the sum of \$800, for ‘Abate-ments and Discounts,’ and during the year the sum of \$707 45 was paid for those purposes, meaning of course abate-ments to persons overtaxed and discount for prompt payment of taxes. This being the intention of such appropriation, these discounts should not appear in the Interest account, although they did get into that account in last year’s report; but if we were selling bonds at a discount, or paying interest in advance on borrowed money which is the same thing as discount, such discount would very properly enter into the interest account, and when we raise a sum of money for ‘Debts and Interest,’ which we do every year, the Selectmen (if they understand the meaning of such appropriation) intend it to comprehend the payment of notes or bonds, and the interest of notes and bonds.

The amount raised for ‘Debts and Interest’ for the present year is \$4000, and by adding together the notes paid and the interest paid, it will be seen whether more or less has been paid than the amount appropriated for ‘Debts and Interest.’

## ABATEMENTS.

C. E. White,	\$3 00	
Thomas Ross,	22 00	
Freewill Baptist Church,	15 00	
C. E. White,	25 50	
F. W. Dearborn,	27 34	
John Knight,	2 47	
Samuel Knight,	2 47	
William Barron,	2 47	
Charles E. White,	33 71	
M. P. Reed,	62	
Thomas H. Sprague,	3 15	
Cyrus Flagg,	11 50	
E. W. White,	9 00	
Melville C. Hall,	3 00	
Benj. B. Wilson,	8 24	
Clara Flagg,	40 50	
E. J. Whitten,	1 24	
Warren Johnson,	33 25	
J. S. Drinkwater,	1 92	
Stockbridge Howland,	5 33	
Philena Thomas,	1 60	
Widows E. and H. Purinton,	2 81	
Thomas Ross,	9 25	
Cornelius Gleason,	2 71	
Sarah W. Hunter,	12 72	
F. W. Dearborn,	40 04	
Lettie F. Carey,	5 55	
Collins P. Thompson,	2 25	
Mary Bradly,	15 00	
A. L. Stanwood,	5 55	
Joseph H. Purinton,	42 90	
Wildes P. Walker,	18 50	
J. E. Tedford,	1 91	
J. F. Whitney,	105 41	
J. W. Fisher & Son,	1 51	
Samuel Stockman,	6 00	
Charles E. White,	3 49	
William Whitten,	3 00	
		\$532 03
Discount for prompt payment of taxes,		409 71
		<hr/> \$941 74

## TOWN FARM.

## Dr.

To estimate taken March 1, 1875, as follows :

Stock,	\$487 00	
Supplies,	344 54	
Utensils and furniture,	369 19	
Supplies during the year, farm book,	375 58	
A. Q. & C. Goud's bill,	87 90	
Chas. E. White's bill,	29 95	1,694 16

*Orders Paid.*

Order to C. E. White, Blondell,	1 82	
N. Cornish,	100 00	
“	62 75	
Humphrey Wilson, hay,	25 00	
Wm. H. Mallett, hauling hay,	7 00	
N. Cornish,	50 00	
“	150 00	396 57
		<u>\$2,090 73</u>

## Cr.

By estimate taken March 1, 1876 :

Stock,	\$580 00	
Supplies,	278 69	
Utensils and furniture,	413 79	
Payment in products of farm, farm book,	375 83	
“ of A. Q. & C. Goud's bill,	87 90	
“ of C. E. White's bill,	29 95	
Meals and lodging to 46 strangers,	23 25	
“ “ stray girls from Freeport,	6 00	1,795 41
Balance against the farm,		<u>\$295 32</u>

The amount of orders paid in favor of the farm is \$396 57

The farm sold during the year 500 lbs. butter and pickles to the amount of \$95.00. The Superintendent has on hand 250 bushels of potatoes.

## POOR OUT OF THE HOUSE.

Orders paid for the benefit of the following named persons :

Susan McCallister,	\$22 00	
Harvey Thompson,	42 93	
Lucy Foye,	39 00	
Philip Martin,	39 30	
Laura Varney, Brunswick,	76 70	
J. F. Card,            “	24 82	
Mrs. Johnson,        “	50 00	
Hattie F. Leonard, Bath,	60 00	
Stray girls from Freeport,	9 50	
3 persons at Insane Asylum,	387 50	
		\$751 75

Cash received on account of poor ;

From Henry M. Dunning,	\$116 32	
Dunning Brotheis,	121 23	
Horatio N. Haley,	26 16	
Town of Brunswick,	101 52	
“        Freeport, farm \$6.00,	15 50	
City of Bath,	60 00	
		\$440 73

Cost of poor out of the house,	\$311 02
Town farm balance, or poor in the house,	295 32
Total cost of poor,	\$606 34

### COLLECTOR AND TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

Due from Ex collector, C. E. White, Mar. 6 1875 for the years 1867 and 1868,	\$164 85	
Additional amount for error in his account	33 71	
		\$198 56
Amount of orders rendered,		76 60
Due from C. E. White, Mar. 11 1876,		\$121 96
Due from Ex collector, J. F. Whitney, Mar. 6 1875 for the years 1869, 1870 and 1871		\$288 35
Order rendered,		105 41
Due from J. F. Whitney, Mar. 11 1876,		\$182 94



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Due from F. W. Dearborn Mar. 6, 1875, for the years 1872, 1873 and 1874,	\$10,674 95
Taxes committed of 1875,	14,459 24
Amount received from State for schools,	1,278 31
do " for new R. R. tax,	95 53
do " Cities and towns,	217 06
do " Individuals,	417 18
do " for Loans,	250 00
do " Rent of toll house,	33 00
	\$27,425 27
Amount of bills paid and vouchers rendered,	19,171 94
	<hr/>
Due from F. W. Dearborn, Mar. 11 1876,	\$8,253 33

LIABILITIES.

Due Balance of State tax of 1875,	\$805 18
Notes outstanding,	7,296 09
Orders outstanding,	346 31
Town bonds,	15,000 00
Schools,	261 98
Accrued interest,	250 00
All other bills estimated,	50 00
	<hr/>
	\$24,009 56

RESOURCES.

Due from State for permanent school fund	347 94
State for mill tax school fund,	464 71
C. E. White, Ex-Col'r, 1867-8,	121 96
J. F. Whitney, " 1869-70-71,	182 94
F. W. Dearborn, " 1872-73-4-5,	8,253 33
Joseph Barron,	50 00
	<hr/>
	9,420 88
	<hr/>
Excess of liabilities, March 11, 1876,	\$14,588 68

## RECAPITULATION.

Teaching,	\$2,649 00 }	Schools,	\$3,180 92
Repairs, &c.,	531 92 }		
Highways & Bridges,	2,394 50	Highw's & Bridges,	2,394 50
Engine,	400 83 }	Fire Department,	520 05
House, repairs, &c.,	119 22 }		
Sundries,	873 68 }	Miscell's expenses,	1,430 07
Law expenses,	556 39 }		
Notes,	3,000 00	Notes,	3,000 00
Abatements of taxes,	532 03 }	Abatements,	941 74
Dis't for prompt pay,	409 71 }		
Town Farm,	396 57	Town Farm,	396 57
Town paupers,	311 02 }	Poor out of House,	751 75
Stranger paupers,	440 73 }		
Notes,	584 51 }	Interest,	1,481 51
Coupons,	897 00 }		
	<u>\$14,097 11</u>		<u>\$14,097 11</u>

## STATISTICS.

Rate of taxation for 1870,	.02,	No. Polls,	340
“ 1871,	.02,	“	335
“ 1872,	.022,	“	339
“ 1873,	.02,	“	346
“ 1874,	.03, & 1 per ct. remit'd.	“	357
“ 1875,	.0185,	“	366

At a town meeting held on the 3d day of June A. D. 1867, the town "voted to fund the town debt and issue bonds to the amount of the debt payable one fourth of the sum in five years, one fourth in ten years, one one fourth in fifteen years and one fourth in twenty years, said bonds to bear six per cent. interest payable semi-annually, to be disposed of to the best advantage by the Selectmen as fast as necessary to meet the liabilities of the town for their (then) existing indebtedness," and it will be seen by the printed report for that year, that the town debt or excess of liabilities above the resources was \$22,729 29 and in the following year (1868) the excess of liabilities was reported to be \$10,166 05 a reduction of the debt of twelve or more thousands of dollars in one year. In the report of 1869 the debt is \$3,446 32 which is nearly seven thousand dollars less than the year previous, and in the year 1870 the Resources exceed the liabilities to the amount of \$2,426 24 which appears as a surplus, the town debt being all paid, which results from not adding to the liabilities for each year, the amount of Bonds sold. As the Bonds sold become liabilities, the true state of the town debt for 1870 (the bonds being all sold) would be \$20,000 00 less the excess of resources reported for that year which would be \$17,573 76 and for the following years as follows :

EXCESS OF LIABILITIES ABOVE RESOURCES OR TOWN DEBT.

For the year 1870	\$17,573 76
“ 1871	21,300 91
“ 1872	22,959 46
“ 1873	20,609 10
“ 1874	18,437 25
“ 1875	15,681 53
“ 1876	14,588 68

At the March meeting in 1872 it was voted to raise by loan sufficient money to pay \$5000 00 of bonds which became due July 1st of that year, and the sum of \$7,140 00 was raised on nineteen notes as will be seen by the Report of 1873 with the dates &c.; in the same place will be seen that notes to the amount of \$3,369 19 also \$5,000 00 of town bonds were paid and further on in the same report the town debt is stated correctly as above, for that year, but the *decrease* of the town debt for that year of \$6,425 51 is not correct, as will be seen by comparing the debts of 1872 and 1873 in the above statement which gives \$2,350 36. The error in stating the decrease arose from the Report of 1872, wherein the town debt is stated to be \$27,034 61.

The following appropriations are recommended for the coming year :

For Common Schools,	\$1300 00
High School,	500 00
Loan for same,	500 00
Highways and Bridges,	2500 00
Poor and other expenses,	2000 00
Abatements and Discounts,	800 00
Notes and Interest,	5000 00
Fire Department,	300 00

CHARLES W. PURINTON,	} Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of Poor of the Town of Topsham.
ISAAC E. MALLETT,	

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TOPSHAM, March 17, 1876.

We have examined the foregoing accounts, and compared them with the books, orders and bills, and find them correct, of which the foregoing is a true copy.

DAVID SCRIBNER,	} AUDITORS.
WILLIAM DENNETT,	

## REPORT OF SUPERVISOR OF SCHOOLS.

It is believed that the schools during the year have given evidence of a full average of success. In some respects there has been marked improvement. Special attention has been directed to the elementary training—paying more regard to thoroughness than to extent of surface. Without particularizing, some teachers have been eminently successful in this direction. There is however yet room for improvement. Unless the foundation is well laid no substantial superstructure can be reared. The public estimate is not always sufficiently discriminating in regard to this feature in education. The ground gone over however superficially, is too often made the measure of the scholar's proficiency. The school supervision in the future will do well to have special regard to this important particular. To secure the desired result, more regard must be had to the qualifications of teachers for the special work they are required to do. Observation has shown, that teachers possessed of the most general knowledge, are not necessarily the most competent for the specific work assigned them in the school room. One may know a little on a great many subjects, may know much on some subjects, without understanding at all the very elements of what they are required to teach. Such instructors, almost from necessity, will be superficial and be strongly tempted to try to substitute appearance for *substance*. One practical difficulty in our Town, is of local character. A study of the statistics, as the close of this report will show, at how high cost the town is providing for the education of some of its children. Still it is a disadvantage difficult to remedy. Every child has a claim to equal school advantages — and yet it is impossible to make the facilities to all the same. All cannot reside relatively near the school-house — hence there is great inequality in the travel to and from school. What shall be the maximum distance any scholar shall be required to go to school? Moreover it is more difficult to secure the needed teacher, for very small than for medium-sized schools

Most well qualified teachers would prefer a school of twenty-five scholars to one of five at the same compensation. For the adjustment of this inconvenience the present has the advantage over the district system — but with any system the difficulty presents itself — and in some instances requires not a little wisdom to know how best to meet it.

The Franklin series of Readers have been adopted in the place of Wilson's which had been in use seven or eight years. So far as reported, the change has given entire satisfaction to both teachers and scholars.

The only other change in books has been the substitution of Green's Introduction to Grammar for Quackenbos' — in cases where new classes in Grammar were to be formed. Green's is much the smaller book—of comparatively low cost and at the same time sufficiently comprehensive and complete for all the purposes of our common Schools. It is a work extensively used through the country, and on trial has been highly approved by many of the best educators in the land. Economy requires that changes in school books should be as unfrequent as is consistent with the good of the schools, but there is a possibility of over-reaching economy in not having books adapted to the wants of the schools.

The school-houses in town are for the most part in good condition. An appropriation for the general repair of school-house No. 6 would meet a much needed want.

The foundation stones of the centre Primary school-house are much out of place and require special attention.

The High-school building in both rooms needs plastering and painting.

The amount needed for the above purposes I am unable to state, but presume it will require at least from \$600 to \$800.

Should the means be furnished, the town should appoint a special committee or instruct the Selectmen to superintend the work. It would be well for the town to authorize the Selectmen to sell the brick school-house no longer needed for school use.

The following is a summary of the schools during the year :

**HIGH SCHOOL.** Weeks of instruction, 30. Teachers— Principal, Lincoln A. Rogers, A. B. Assistant, Miss Annie M. Tate. Terms— Three of 10 weeks each. Registered,—Summer, 37; Fall, 41; Winter, 39. Average attendance—Summer, 34; Fall, 35; Winter, 31. Wages

per month exclusive of board—Principal \$84, board 16.—\$100. Assistant per week \$5, board 3.—\$8. Amount paid for instruction and board 7 1-2 months \$900.

1st PRIMARY. Teacher Miss Emma T. Mallett. Three terms. Two of 8 and one of 9 weeks—25 weeks. Registered—Summer, 22; Fall, 38; Winter 30. Average.—Summer, 21; Fall, 33; Winter, 25. Wages per week. \$1, board \$2,—8. Total wages and board—\$200.

2d PRIMARY. Teacher, Miss Emily J. Whitten. Three terms, two of 8 and one of 9 weeks—25 weeks. Registered—Summer, 50; Fall, 42; Winter, 41; Average—Summer, 39; Fall, 38; Winter, 35. Wages per week \$5, board \$3,—\$8. Total wages and board \$200.

No. 1. Teachers, Miss Fannie E. Potter, and Mr. Palmer C. Thompson. Three terms, two of 8 and one of 9 weeks—25 weeks. Registered—Summer, 9; Fall, 11; Winter, 8. Average—Summer, 7; Fall, 8; Winter, 7. Wages per week; Summer and Fall \$2.75, board \$2.25—\$5. Wages per month; Winter \$20, board \$10,—\$30. Total wages and board, \$147.50.

No. 3. Teacher, Miss Martha Curtis. Three terms, two of 8 and one of 9 weeks—25 weeks. Registered—Summer, 15; Fall, 12; Winter, 12. Average—Summer, 13; Fall, 11; Winter, 10. Wages per week (average) \$4.20, board \$2.—\$6.20. Total wages and board—\$155.

No. 4. Teachers, Miss Mary L. Whitney, and Mr. Wm. S. Rogers. Three terms, two of 8 and one of 9 weeks—25 weeks. Registered—Summer, 15; Fall, 15; Winter, 17. Average—Summer, 12, Fall, 12; Winter, 15. Wages per week; Summer and Fall \$3, board \$2,—\$5. Wages per month in winter \$20, board \$10,—\$30. Total wages and board—\$147.50.

No. 5. Teachers, Miss Lulie F. Getchell; Miss Lettie Plummer and Mr. Orlando Dyer. Three terms, two of 8 and one of 9 weeks—25 weeks. Registered—Summer, 9; Fall, 10; Winter 15. Average—Summer, 7; Fall, 9; Winter, 12. Wages per week; Summer and Fall \$3.88, board \$2.12—\$5.00. Wages per month, in winter, \$22, board \$10—\$32. Total wages and board—\$152.

No. 6. Teacher, Miss Emily A. Thompson. Three terms two of 8 and one of 9 weeks—25 weeks. Registered—Summer, 41; Fall, 40; Winter, 40. Average—Summer, 30; Fall, 31; Winter, 34. Wages per week \$4.36, board \$2.00—\$6.36. Total, wages and board \$159.