

ANNUAL REPORTS

SELECTMEN, TREASURER, AUDITORS,

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

OF THE

TOWN OF EPSOM,

FOR THE

FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1881.

CONCORD, N. H. :
PRINTED BY CHARLES C. PEARSON.
1881.

FINANCIAL KEPOKT.

RECEIPTS.

Remaining in hands of treasurer,	\$507 44
" G. C. Knowles, collector 1877,	156 42
" Samuel Quimby, " 1878,	88 01
" Samuel Quimby, " 1879,	701 68
Am't committed to Samuel Quimby, for collection,	7,673 66
Received of State treasurer, insurance tax,	4 50
" railroad tax,	168 17
" savings bank tax.	656 90
" literary fund,	85 47
Received of County Commissioners:	
Supplies for Eliza A. Cotton,	78 00
William C. Bennett,	82 85
Josiah Howe,	16 50
Sarah Mason,	166 34
Rebecca Moody,	38 20
Osum Dowst,	22 87
Orrin E. Drake,	6 00
Eliza A. Cotton,	78 00
The last bill was paid last year and received this.	
Received by note,	18,075 55
Received of Samuel Quimby, by error in settlement of 1878,	77 26
Received of G. C. Knowles, interest on taxes of 1877,	25 77
" Samuel Quimby, " 1878,	20 08
" Samuel Quimby, " 1879	25 42
" Samuel Quimby, " 1880,	<u>21 17</u>
	\$28,776 26

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

G. C. Knowles, damage to team,	\$15 00
John C. Hall, school house tax Dist. No. i,	600 00
J. H. Dolbeer, school house tax Dist. No. 9,	350 00
J. Minot, counsel, 1879,	2 00
J. H. Dolbeer, insurance on town house,	<u>12 25</u>
	\$979 25

SCHOOL ORDERS.

District No. 1, Joseph B. Cass,	\$204 81
" 2, George E. Warren,	128 60
" 3, James H. Tripp,	80 46
" 4, Paran Philbrick,	200 53
" 5, James Yeaton,	72 00
" 6, Charles C. Sargent, Uni	58 00
" 7, R. C. Brown,	98 74
" 8, Blanchard H. Fowler,	61 83
" 9, Eben S. Dutton,	119 86
" 10, Zachariah Leighton,	62 47
" 11, Samuel W. Langmaid, Union,	<u>45 00</u>
	\$1,132 30

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

Paid Jacob E. Griffin, labor on roads,	\$5 40
George W. Ham, labor on roads,	5 25
William L. Hildreth, labor on turnpike,	1 00
Jacob E. Griffin, labor on road,	3 00
B. B. Yeaton, 575 feet bridge plank,	8 18
Benjamin Hall, labor on road,	3 00
David M. Philbrick, labor on bridges,	26 00
Daniel Philbrick, "	8 00
William P. Babb, labor on turnpike,	4 50
Joseph P. Locke, work on roads and bridges,	11 00
True F. Kelley, " "	7 50
Mark Marden, " "	1 00

Paid Alvah L. Yeaton, work on turnpike,	\$10 60
Elbridge G. Batchelder, "	1 50
James Yeaton, labor on bridges,	13 50
James Yeaton, plank and stringer,	2 50
Geo. W. Ham, turnpike and bridges,	9 00
Silas G. Bickford, grade for swamp road,	3 00
Joseph B. Cass, labor on turnpike,	1 50
Horace Bickford, 4356 bridge plank and stringers,	60 98
Horace Bickford, work on bridge,	9 00
William Goss, drawing plank and labor,	1 50
Charles L. Baker, " "	4 00
Robert C. Brown, work on road and bridges,	16 00
Samuel B. Cofran, " "	3 00
	\$220 53

BREAKING ROADS.

Paid Albion Locke, 1879,	\$4 95
Henry C. Ames,	2 20
Sullivan G. Mills,	1 60
Samuel T. Page,	1 90
Daniel Watson,	1 00
Daniel Yeaton, 1880,	3 85
Benjamin B. Yeaton,	13 10
Joseph P. Locke,	16 40
Sullivan G. Mills,	4 00
Albion Locke,	10 50
William H. Straw,	16 00
True F. Kelley,	10 25
Mark Marden,	10 00
Elbridge G. Batchelder,	50
Calvin Dowst,	10 06
Joseph B. Cass,	3 10
George W. Batchelder,	6 00
Charles Ames,	3 20
Edgar A. Brown,	3 80
Cyrus O. Brown,	2 70
Alvah L. Yeaton,	6 60

Paid Charles H. Hall,	\$2 00
Mark E. Woods,	30
Samuel B. Cofran,	2 00
Constantine Wood,	<u>3 55</u>
	\$139 56

TOWN CHARGES.

Paid H. F. Sanborn and Samuel Martin, auditors, '80,	\$3.00
Dem. Pub. Co., printing town and school report,	25 00
J. B. Sanborn, blank books and stationery,	7 39
John S. Kimball, recording deed,	50
Jeremiah Sanborn, pub. watering place, 1879,	3 00
William Goss, " " 1880,	3 00
Stephen F. Brown, " " 1880,	3 00
Andrew S. Evans, furnishing dinners for select men, auditors and their horses, from March 1 to March 11, 1880,	50 3 90
H. S. Knowles, powder fuse and broom,	2 34
" furnishing dinners for select men and their horses, from Apr. 12, '80, to Feb. 19, '81,	26 25
J. B. Sanborn, check-lists and warrants,	2 98
Paran Philbrick, irons for railing,	2 00
" carrying Mr. Slater to Suncook,	2 00
William H. Straw, loss of horse	1 13
True F. Kelley, "	37
George T. Tripp, dead dog,	1 00
Levi Cass, over taxed,	1 04
Jacob F. Robinson, recording births and deaths,	7 00
" postage and express	65
Edward Langmaid, services in Sarah Mason case,	75
T. L. Fowler, services on road in Knox case,	1 00
A. H. French, M. D., 17 certificates births and deaths,	4 25
Bounty on six hawks,	1 02
Daniel G. Chesley, paying notes, &c.,	8 75

Paid George C. Knowles, services as collector 1877,			\$75 00
Samuel Quimby,	"	"	1878, 70 00
"	"	"	1879, 70 00
"	"	"	1880, <u>90 00</u>

\$416 50

DAMAGE TO SHEEP BY DOGS.

Paid Joseph Lawrence,		\$13 73
Lucian Heath,		3 43
Henry F. Sanborn,		23 52
Cyrus O. Brown,		7 84
Samuel Bickford,		7 84
David M. Philbrick,		4 91
Samuel Fowler,		3 93
John Chesley, to calf,		<u>9 80</u>

\$75 00

POOR ORDERS.

Paid Henry O. Cass, for board of J. S. Cass, at Asylum,		\$126 48
John S. Hoyt, for board of Betsey C. Goss,		107 00
Abby J. Haynes, " Eliza A. Cotton,		78 00
Silver & Robinson, goods delivered W. C. Bennett,		78 00
Silver & Robinson, " Sarah Mason,		140 34
John C. Holland & Son, board of Osum Dowst,		22 87
Wm. C. Bennett, board of Orin Drake,		6 00
J. M. Varney, wood furnished Sarah Mason,		4 00
Alvah L. Yeaton, " "		4 00
A. H. French, M. D., medical charges for		
Rebeca Moody,		34 00
Sarah Mason's family,		18 00
Josiah Howe,		13 50
William C. Bennett,		4 85
R. C. Brown, moving Josiah Howe to county farm,		3 00

Paid H. S. Knowles, goods delivered Rebecca Moody,	\$ 65
W. A. Mack, M. D., opium for	" 1 25
C. H. Martin,	" " 1 55
"	" " <u>75</u>
	\$644 24

RECEIVED OF COUNTY FOR PAUPERS.

William C. Bennett,	82 85
Josiah Howe,	16 50
Osum Dowst,	22 87
Orren E. Drake,	6 00
Sarah Mason,	166 34
Rebecca Moody,	38 20
Eliza A. Cotton,	78 00
Eliza A. Cotton,	<u>78 00</u>

\$488 76

The last bill paid last year and received this.

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Jacob F. Robinson, services as town clerk,	15 00
James M. Burnham, " supervisor.	7 00
Morrill D. Bickford, " "	7 00
James B. Tennant, " "	7 00
Daniel G. Chesley, " treasurer,	30 00
James Yeaton, " selectman,	41 25
James W. Fowler, " "	43 24
Robert C. Brown, " "	63 49
George Sanders, Jr., " " 1879,	<u>675</u>

\$220 73

RECAPITULATION.

Paid State tax,	\$964 00
County tax,	1084 50
School orders	1132 30

Paid Highways and bridges.	\$220 53
Breaking roads,	139 56
Incidental expenses,	979 25
Town charges,	416 50
Sheep bills,	75 00
Poor orders,	644 24
Town officers,	220 73
Notes and interest.	22,033 90
Non-resident highway worked out,	41 44
Abatements of taxes, 1877,	8 37
" " 1878,	1094
" " 1879,	48 77
" " 1880,	50 85

\$28,070 88

ROBERT C. BROWN,) *Selectmen*
JAMES W. FOWLER,) *of*
JAMES YEATON,) *Epsom.*

TREASURER'S REPORT.

RECEIPTS.

Balance from town treasurer of 1879,	\$507 44
Remaining in hands of Geo. C. Knowles, collect or, 1877,	156 42
Remaining in hands of Samuel Quimby, collect or, 1878,	88 0:
Remaining in hands of Samuel Quimby, collect or, 1878. by error,	77 26
Remaining in hands of Samuel Quimby, collect or, 1879,	701 68
Amount committed to Samuel Quimby, for collect'n,	7673 66
From Geo. C. Knowles, as interest on taxes, 1877,	25 77
Samuel Quimby, " " 1878,	20 08
" " " 1879,	25 42
" " " 1880,	21 17
Selectmen, money hired,	8,075 55
State treasurer, savings bank tax,	656 90
" " railroad tax,	168 17
" " literary fund,	85 47
" " insurance tax,	4 50
Merrimack county, for support of poor in '79,	78 00
" " " " '80,	410 76

EXPENDITURES.

Paid 192 town orders of the selectmen,	\$27,817 75
Amount of receipts of treasurer,	28,776 26
" expenditures,	<u>27,817 75</u>
Remaining in the treasury,	\$958 51

DANIEL G. CHESLEY,
Town Treasurer.

AUDITORS' REPORT, MARCH i, 1881.

Amount of receipts reported by the treasurer,	\$28,776 26
" expenditures,	<u>27,817 75</u>
Cash in treasury,	\$958 51
Indebtedness of town by note, March 1, 1881,	\$15,596 27
Due on outstanding orders,	263 13
Total liability of town,	15,859 40
Actual indebtedness,	14,900 89
Reduction of debt since March i, 1880,	2573 46

We hereby certify that we have examined the accounts of the selectmen and treasurer of the town of Epsom, for the year ending March 1, 1881, and found them correctly cast and properly vouched.

SAMUEL MARTIN, }

JOHN H. DOLBEER, }

Auditors

Epsom, March 1, 1881.

R E P O R T
OF THE
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

We submit for your consideration the following report on school matters :

The public statistics required of us are as follows : Number of children in town of each sex between the ages of five and fifteen, by selectmen's enumeration in April last, boys, 101 ; girls, 81. Number of children above five years attending school not less than two weeks: Boys, 124; girls, 99. Number not attending school as required by law (from registers) 5.

DISTRICT No. 1.—CENTER.

Summer term, 9 weeks ; scholars, 26 ; wages per month, \$25. Winter term, 133-5 weeks; scholars, 39; wages per month, \$35.

Summer Term.—Miss Mary A. Seavey, teacher. Miss Seavey is one of the few who realizes that telling is not teaching, and that scholars should mainly rely upon themselves. Her quiet energy secured unusually good order, and her slight dependence upon the text-book for questions required a thoughtful study of the subject by her pupils. Five classes in geography were brought into two with the best results by the change of text-books on this subject. An unreasonable complaint made against the teacher near the close of the term wrought much injury.

Winter Term.—C. W. Tarlton, A. M., teacher. Of him we have reported before and now would reiterate the same, and more also, were he not a member of the school committee. Much credit is due the scholars of this school for their studiousness, uniform courtesy, and constant progress. A class of

fifteen in National arithmetic and geography will compare favorably, we think, with any similar class in the State. Much interest and progress has attended all other studies.

DISTRICT No. 2.—CILLEY.

Summer term, 7 weeks; scholars, 29; wages per month, \$20. Winter term, n weeks; scholars, 36; wages per month, \$32.

Summer Term.—Mrs. Lizzie M. Warren, teacher. The lack of proper teaching heretofore in the elementary branches is sadly evident, and there must be much hard work done here before there can be much real advancement or the school brought up to an average with other schools. Mrs. Warren brought to her work past experience, and an earnest desire and effort to succeed, yet but little was accomplished in government or teaching. A few classes made some progress.

Winter Term.—Miss Mina H. Quimby still teaching. An experienced, well qualified and energetic teacher. We noticed with pleasure the great improvement in order and attention, and that discipline was meted out impartially to all. Few teachers could have done better in this school, and it is not her fault that the results are small. The best classes in this school are those in geography, and the poorest those in reading. Classes in arithmetic are doing good work with slow progress.

DISTRICT No. 3.—MOUNTAIN.

Summer term, 8 weeks; scholars, 17; wages per month, \$14.20. Winter term, n weeks; scholars, 21; wages per month, \$18.80.

Summer Term.—Miss Luella J. Cilley, teacher. She was an unusually faithful and conscientious teacher, needing only more experience and a broader culture to become one of our best educators. Few of our teachers are trying harder to fit themselves for thorough and thoughtful teaching, or are making such progress in this direction; her willing co-operation with us aided in her success. A class in mental arithmetic made excellent improvement. Geography, reading, and written arithmetic classes, did earnest work and made good improve-

ment. Grammar fair progress. In this school only, singing was made a study, and added much to the interest of the school.

Winter Term.—Miss Ella F. Chesley, teacher. We expected greater results than were obtained from this teacher, and the only reason we can give for our disappointment, was the lack of earnest effort on her part. Some progress was made in certain studies, but more in appearance than in reality. Had the teacher aroused her dormant faculties, and infused enthusiasm into her scholars, and worked cheerfully with us, we think it would have been different.

DISTRICT No. 4.—SHORT FALLS.

Summer term, 10 weeks ; scholars, 24; wages, \$25. Fall term, 6 weeks ; scholars, 29 ; wages, \$20.43. Winter term, 12 weeks ; scholars, 29 ; wages, \$26.

Miss Helen A. Stewart, teacher of summer and fall terms. If experience had been equal to culture and ability, there would have been more progress made by the pupils. She had a mistaken idea that a school could be governed simply by love and moral suasion, but few schools will quicker show this a fallacy than No. 4. But Miss S. had energy and resolution to attempt the correction of errors when they were seen, and by hard persistent work made her second term much better than the first. There was better order and more study, consequently more progress, yet less than would have resulted, had the scholars worked as hard as the teacher.

Winter Term.—Miss Sara L. Kenison, teacher. Some experience and thorough rudimentary education were here combined, but a lack of energy and dignity hindered the high success that might otherwise have been obtained. Yet we think there was some faithful effort on her part, and an average winter's work done by the scholars, though not half as much as they could have done. Reading, with few exceptions, poor.

DISTRICT No. 5.—NEW ORCHARD.

Miss Sarah N. Wallace, teacher of both terms. Summer term, 7 weeks; scholars, 8 ; wages, per month, \$20. Fall term, 6 weeks ; scholars, 8 ; wages, \$20

Miss Wallace has had considerable experience, but has little enthusiasm or devotion for her work. This school is small, studious, orderly and respectful, and but little effort is required to govern it. Classes in primary arithmetic made good progress. Two scholars in higher arithmetic passed a good review of their year's work. Progress fair in reading, writing and spelling. We miss one honest little countenance this year from this school.

DISTRICT No. 6.—UNION WITH PITTSFIELD. Number of Epsom scholars, 9.

DISTRICT No. 7.—NORTH ROAD.

Summer term, 7 weeks; scholars, 22; wages, both terms, \$20. Winter term, 11 weeks; scholars, 23.

Miss Fannie A. Scott, teacher of both terms. We see here the advantage of employing a good teacher for successive terms. Quietness may be both source and evidence of power. Bluster generally springs from conscious weakness. This firm and quiet teacher converted a disorderly school into a model of order. Few can surpass her in school drill. Her classes in mental arithmetic were the best in town. Some of the older scholars in grammar and mathematics, were so closely confined to their text books, that they were unable to make practical application of their knowledge. Reading classes failed to express the meaning of what they read. Continued study and elocutionary practice will make her a much better teacher.

DISTRICT No. 8.—FOWLER.

Summer term, 8 weeks; scholars, 7. Winter, 12 weeks; scholars, 9.

Miss Julia E. Gilbert, teacher of summer term, made here her first attempt at teaching. Though we doubt not she endeavored to do her duty, there was not much success. There appeared but little faculty to awaken interest and impart instruction.

Miss Nettie M. Chase, teacher of the winter term, being a graduate of the N. H. Normal school, was not examined, as the law did not formerly require it, but a recent examination showed that this law had been repealed. She appeared to be well qualified and has done fair work, and gives good satisfaction. The class in English analysis is the farthest advanced of any in town. Other studies are being well understood.

DISTRICT No. 9.—NEW RYE.

Summer term, 8 weeks; scholars, 12; wages, per month, \$18. Winter term, 14 weeks; scholars, 18; wages, per month, \$22.

Miss Nettie L. Dowst, teacher of summer term. The responsibility of a teacher's position and the need of earnest effort did not appear to be realized by her, nor did she feel inclined to follow our suggestions. As no progress was apparent, we closed the school.

Miss Adelaide Veasey, teacher of winter term. A want of experience is not always a bar to success. Although this was her first school, she accomplished more than many who have had much experience. More thoughtful interest is awakened when a teacher can apply her questions without the constant aid of a text book. In this respect we especially commend her, as also, in the effort, so seldom made in our schools, to teach reading. Common school arithmetic class did good honest work, and made substantial progress.

DISTRICT No. 10.—MARDEN.

Summer term, 6 weeks; scholars, 9; wages, per month, \$19. Winter term, 10 weeks; scholars, 13; wages, per month, \$23.

Miss Grace D. Edmunds, teacher of summer term. This was her first school. Our first visit found the order good and the prospect fair for a profitable school. Our second, found no school, on account of the greater attractions of a circus. At our final visit only three scholars were present, consequently cannot report progress.

Mrs. Lizzie M. Warren taught the second term. This school being smaller, she succeeded better than in her larger and more difficult summer school. The classes in geography made good improvement; in mathematics fair; in reading poor.

UNION WITH CHICHESTER.

No return. Number of Epsom scholars, 7.

GENERAL REMARKS.

As most of our citizens know but little about our schools except from committee's reports, we have sought to give as much candid information concerning the condition, government, teaching and progress, as the space in our town reports will allow. We have long felt that our schools were not what they should be. Public sentiment has been such that a committee hardly dared to do their whole duty lest the cry be raised that they are ambitious, selfish, arbitrary busybodies, even public nuisances, who ought to be banished from public society.

If the time has not come it must come, when we must demand a value received for the vast outlay of money annually expended upon our schools.

It has been a custom heretofore to give all applicants certificates, lest they and all their near and distant relatives and connections should be mortally offended. But even if their knowledge were sufficient, it is only *one* of the legal requirements. Section 3, chapter 89, of the General Laws requires that a teacher shall possess a good moral character, a suitable temper and a capacity to govern. We hope our successors will enforce sections 3, 4 and 5 of this chapter. The duties of a school committee are plain : Section 8, chapter 89, prescribes that "the school committee *shall* dismiss any teacher who is found incapable or unfit to teach, or whose services are found unprofitable to the school, or who shall not conform to the regulations prescribed by them," and every committee swears

to perform this duty. After a certificate has been given, it is plainly our duty to aid the teacher by frequent visiting, by pointing out errors, by carefully examining their work and making suggestions. In order to execute the law in spirit we have made more than 100 visits to the schools and expended more than 450 hours by actual account, in school work. Our report of schools is not based upon memory, but upon notes taken at time of visiting the schools. This large amount of time and labor has been spent simply because we thought the work could not otherwise be well done. Our best efforts have been made to raise the standard of teacher and teaching. But we find many teachers who may once have been well qualified, but from neglect of continued study and reading are losing their fitness to teach. If future school committees do their duty, this class must continue their study or change their vocation.

There is no school exercise in which our scholars need more teaching and receive less than in reading. Many can pronounce most of the words they meet readily and correctly, but alas how few can enter into the spirit of what they read and give proper expression to it. We earnestly recommend that scholars and teachers especially cultivate this art.

A new text book on geography has been introduced into all our schools, without a single exception, and the benefit arising from it already is plainly seen.

A like change is also much needed in the text book on grammar. There is now no uniform book on this subject in town, but different pupils and schools use such a book as they happen to have or chance to get. The grammars now in use are all unsatisfactory, and much care and examination will be needed in making the selection.

No school-house in town contains a closet with lock and key, in which much needed articles of school furniture can be securely kept, and we will softly whisper that no district now owns in fee simple a dictionary, map, chart, globe, clock or thermometer. A new and commodious school-house has been built the past year in District No. 1, and whatever of pleasure and profit comes from the winter term is largely due to a

cheerful and comfortable school-room. The school-house in No. 5 is unfit for its purpose, and a disgrace to the district. The interior of the Cilley school-house calls for immediate repairs in floor, seats and desks. The general appearance of this room is chilling and repulsive. Nos. 4 and 7 could be improved much by putting in patent seats.

In conclusion we would say to our fellow citizens that the coming generation is even now demanding of us higher school advantages.

CYRUS O. BROWN, C. W. TARLTON, *Superintending School Committee*. Epsom, March 1, 1881.