

ANNUAL REPORTS  
OF THE  
SELECTMEN AND TREASURER  
OF THE

TOWN OF EPSOM,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

MARCH 1, 1891

CONCORD, N. H.:  
IRA C. EVANS, PRINTER, 13 AND 15 CAPITOL ST.  
1891.

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# SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

## RECEIPTS.

Remaining in hands of treasurer for the year 1889,	\$273.37
" " W. S. Rand, collector for 1888,	1,020.07
" "F. L. Seavey, " " 1889,	163.42
Amount committed to Daniel Yeaton for collection in 1890 :	
Resident tax,	\$4,783.74
Non-resident tax,	720.42
Dog tax,	90.00
	————\$5,594.16

## RECEIVED OF STATE TREASURER.

Insurance tax,	\$19.50
Railroad tax,	200.00
Savings bank tax,	1,336.65
Literary fund,	165.85
	————\$1,722.40

## RECEIVED OF MERRIMACK COUNTY.

Support of Mrs. Samuel Batchelder,	\$122.87
Hannah Marden,	66.25
Eliza Hanscomb,	208.75
Mrs. Joseph Marden,	42.20
Mrs. Randall,	40.60
Joseph Marden,	4.74
Ozum Dowst,	55.20
Baker Child,	18.00
	———— \$558.61

Received by note of sundry individuals,	\$625.00	
of F. L. Seavey, interest on taxes,	9.85	
of bondsmen of W. S. Rand, interest on tax	139.45	
of Daniel Yeaton, interest on taxes,	10.47	
of the towns of Deerfield and Northwood,	507.50	
	<u>507.50</u>	<u>\$1,292.72</u>
Total receipts,		\$10,624.30

## EXPENDITURES.

1890.

Paid :

Mar. 17. J. B. Sanborn, blank books, stationery, etc.,	\$4.32
Apr. 10. A. P. Bickford, damage to sheep by dogs in 1888,	10.00
2. J. Lawrence, 1 sheep killed by dogs,	3.00
7. H. C. Lovejoy, 2 sheep killed by dogs,	6.00
A. M. Wells, services as superintendent of schools,	30.00
A. M. Wells, member of school board,	10.00
11. Sarah A. Bennett, board Hannah Marden,	24.00
8. Charles Palmer, work on road in Dist. No. 13,	2.40
A. D. Wicom, work on road in Dist. No. 13,	2.40
18. J. E. Griffin, breaking roads in Dist. No. 1, in 1889 and 1890,	10.05
S. B. Page, breaking roads in Dist. No. 24 in 1889 and 1890,	3.50
C. O. Brown, services as member of school board and making statistical report,	13.00

## Paid:

	Apr. 22.	George Sanders, breaking roads in Dist. No. 15,	\$6.75
	23.	H. G. Sargent, legal services in Northwood and Epsom road case in 1888 and 1889,	15.95
	24.	T. F. Kelley, breaking roads in Dist. No. 9,	11.02
	26.	J. P. Locke, breaking roads in Dist. No. 6, 1889 and 1890, Lewis Bunker, coffin and box for Hannah Marden,	5.02 13.00
May	1.	F. P. Ricker, labor on road in Dist. No. 18 in 1888,	2.50
	17.	A. C. Day, printing town reports,	36.00
	10.	Sarah A. Bennett, board of Han- nah Marden,	10.50
	17.	H. A. Tuttle, clothing for Constan- tine Woods,	8.90
	19.	H. O. Wells, supplies for Constan- tine Woods, Moses Libbey, breaking roads in Dist. No. 13,	.50 3.00
	24.	Charles W. Doe, digging graves for Hannah and Joseph Marden, J. H. Dolbeer, services as auditor, J. H. Dolbeer, insurance on town house,	3.00 1.50 4.00
	29.	C. S. Heath, George Hoyt Post, No. 66, G. A. R.,	50.00
	27.	F. P. Ricker, ruling road ma- chine.	10.00
	31.	S. L. Clarke, board of Constantine Woods,	12.00
June	4.	James Baker, board of Eliza Hans- comb. D. M. Philbrick, breaking road in Dist. No. 8, in 1888 and 1890,	50.00 16.65
	6.	H. O. Wells, repairs on road ma- chine,	.90

## Paid:

June 16.	F. W. Tripp, labor on road in Dist. No. 19,	\$ .80
26.	James H. Tripp, school money,	300 .00
28.	George A. Pike, breaking roads in Dist. No. 4,	5.85
	Cyrus Marden, work on road in Dist. No. 4,	36.25
July 15.	Annie M. Wells, school books,	12.78
	C. H. Ayer, damage to wagon,	2.50
26.	G. P. Rand, work on highway in Dist. No. 5,	6.90
	S. B. Page, work on highway in Dist. No. 24,	16.70
	J. H. Tripp, services as member of school board,	15.00
Aug. 4.	James Baker, board of Eliza Hanscomb,	41.00
Aug. 4.	W. H. Yeaton, work on road in Dist. No. 16,	\$37.95
16.	W. S. Rand, for collecting taxes in 1888,	50.00
20.	Wm. L. Foster, legal services in 1888 and 1889,	251.15
	Wm. L. Foster, services in Shuah Sanborn case, 1889,	31.00
19.	Horace Fowler, work on road machine in Dist. No. 8, 1889,	4.50
22.	Warren Yeaton, land damage,	125.00
	Catherine A. Yeaton, land damage,	60.00
	J. B. Cass, "	30.00
23.	Noah W. Goss, "	40.00
30.	James M. Burnham, labor on highway in Dist. No. 16,	6.89
	Daniel Yeaton, for breaking roads in Dist. No. 16,	2.00
	M. Q. Burnham, for iron post at Steep Gulley bridge,	5.75

Paid:		
Aug. 30.	Freeman Marden, repairing road machine,	\$1.50
	A. L. Tilton, labor on highway,	5.10
	Z. Leighton, glass for Marden school-house,	1.10
	B. M. Towle, labor on N. E. road,	6.00
	" " Depot road,	9.00
	" " road in Dist. No. 5,	2.00
	B. M. Towle, labor on road in Dist. No. 23,	7.95
	B. M. Towle, labor on road in Dist. No. 16,	33.16
	B. M. Towle, procuring coffin for Hannah Marden,	2.00
	J. P. Locke, work on roads in Dist. No. 6,	28.00
	B. M. Towle, carting road machine and supplies for same,	2.00
Sept. 2.	J. L. Bartlett, labor on road in Dist. No- 13,	22.22
13.	D. G. Chesley, board of Constantine Woods,	22.00
16.	H. A. Holmes, land damage,	25.00
27.	J. T. Cottrell, work on road in Dist. No. 3,	20.00
30.	J. H. Tripp, school books,	200.00
Oct. 7.	County tax in part, City of Concord, aid to C. R. Burnham in 1889,	500.00
10.	Rooke & Berry, work on new road from Northwood to Epsom,	25.15
18.	A. P. Bickford, work on road in Dist. No. 22,	160.00
	Evelyn Marden, for care of Hannah Marden,	38.50
20.	J. A & D. G. Chesley, land damage,	2.00
	Russ & Sullivan, land damage,	1.00
		11.00

Paid :		
Oct. 20,	J. C. Philbrick, land damage,	\$80.00
25.	A. C. Caswell, damage to carriage on Prescott Hill, Jan. 20, 1890,	35.00
	C. W. Leighton, labor on road in Dist. No. 23,	3.25
	J. Lawrence, Jr., labor on turnpike,	125.00
	B. M. Towle, labor on new road,	7.00
	J. P. Locke, labor on road in Dist. No. 6,	3.00
	A. Locke, breaking and repairing road in Dist. No. 7,	31.75
	A. Locke, work on N. E. road,	10.00
	" " road in Dist. No. 4,	7.50
30.	J. H. Tripp, school money,	425.00
31.	J. C. Brown, labor on road in Dist. No 14,	4.20
	J. Lawrence, Jr., labor on turnpike,	13.45
Nov. 5.	Rooke & Berry, labor on new road,	140.00
	J. T. Cottrell, labor on road in Dist. No. 3,	50.00
12.	James Baker, board of Eliza Hans- comb,	30.00
18.	Webster Mfg. Co., land damage,	3.00
26.	J. M. & D. A. Parker, land damage,	5.00
	County tax in full,	514.00
29.	Calvin Dowst, work on road in Dist. No. 12,	53.75
	J. H. Tripp, repairs on school- houses,	150.00
	C. Marden, work on road in Dist. No. 4,	27.50
	Hollis Hall, work on road in Dists. Nos. 10 and 12,	51.75
	Wm. P. Babb, work on road in Dist. No-9.	71.55
	Wm. P. Babb, work on road lead ing to Wm. P. Babb's house,	5.00



Paid :		
Nov. 29.	J. T. Cottrell, labor on road, Dist. No. 3,	\$55.00
	J. T. Cottrell, labor on culvert by T. J. Ames,	20.00
	J. T. Cottrell, labor on culvert by Addison Davis,	30.00
Dec. 4.	J. H. Fife, work on road in Dist. No. 14,	29.70
	Rooke & Berry, work on new road,	180.00
	State tax,	1,090.00
20.	B. M. Towle, attendance with hearse,	20.00
24.	Frank Marden, work on road in Dist. No. 17,	33.00
27.	J. H. Dolbeer, work on road in Dist. No. 18,	55.32
	J. Lawrence, Jr., work on road in Dist. No. 1,	69.00
	George E. Warren, services as school district clerk, two years,	4.00
29.	G. P. Cass, work on road in Dist. No. 18 in 1889,	3.00
30.	Luther Hall, work on road in Dist. No. 2,	47.25
	J. T. Cottrell, labor of A. Batchelder on road in Dist. No. 3,	9.50
1891.		
Jan. 2.	F. P. Ricker, running road machine, and repairs on same,	27.75
	H. O. Wells, hat for Constantine Woods,	1.00
	Pittsfield Bank, note in full,	157.58
	Pittsfield Bank, note in full,	507.42
14.	Rooke & Berry, work on new road,	40.00
19.	H. C. Lovejoy, work on road in Dist. No. 4,	20.69
23.	A. Hartford, work on road in Dist. No. 13,	2.35



Paid:		
Feb. 9.	H. O. Wells, jury and order books and warrant,	\$4.35
	D. G. Chesley, keeping tramps,	4.00
20.	Wm. L. Foster, legal services to March 1, 1891,	18.00
	Wm. L. Foster, legal services on new road,	18.00
	J. B. Cass, land for grade,	6.00
	G. W. Lane, services as engineer on new road,	33.71
	H. O. Wells, services and expenses on new road,	23.95
	B. M. Towle, services and expenses on new road,	9.50
	George Tripp, labor, road in Dis trict No. 19,	53.62
	George Tripp, snowing bridge,	3.00
	" " laying plank on bridge,	6.00
	Rooke & Berry, work on new road,	70.00
	J. K. Stokes, services and expenses on new road,	20.00
21.	A. L. Yeaton, land damage,	4.00
	Wm. P. Babb, breaking road in District No. 9,	21.10
	J. L. Bartlett, breaking roads in District No. 13,	13.85
	C. W. Leighton, breaking road in District No. 23,	2.50
24.	W. A. Sanders, labor and breaking in District No. 15,	25.40
	D. M. Philbrick, work on road in District No. 8,	28.65
	D. M. Philbrick, breaking roads in District No. 8,	13.35
	Charles W. Doe, labor on road in District No. 5,	1.50
	Charles W. Doe, keeping tramp,	1.00
	Wm. Fowler, work on road in District No. 20,	5.25

Paid:		
Feb. 25.	Wm. Fowler, services as auditor,	\$1.50
	J. H. Tripp, school supplies,	50.00
	C. A. Langmaid, bridge plank and rails,	13.03
	C. O. Brown, driving hearse and repairs on building,	3.50
25.	Calvin Dowst, breaking roads in District No. 12,	16.90
27.	A. D. Sherburne, work on Sher- burne road,	2.50
	A. P. Bickford, cutting bushes and breaking roads in District No. 22,	3.00
	George C. Towle, labor on highway and breaking in District No. 5,	71.00
	J. B. Tennant, 55 ½ pounds nails,	2.14
	" " 1,900 feet bridge plank,	22.80
	H. O. Wells, postage, stationery, etc.,	1.85
	" " services as selectman,	87.31
	John K. Stokes, " "	56.51
	B. M. Towle, " "	50.00
	Albion Locke, breaking roads in District No. 7,	7.00
	J. P. Locke, breaking roads in District No. 6,	3.00
	M. A. Evans, grade for road,	2.25
	D. M. Philbrick, stone for culvert,	1.00
	D. G. Chesley, boarding C. Wood,	114.57
	" " timber for Spruce cove,	45.00
	" " bridge plank and labor on roads,	57.38
	" " bridge plank,	18.21
28.	H. S. Knowles, 66 meals for select men and auditors,	19.80
	H. S. Knowles, powder, fuse, and spikes,	1.88
	G. C. Knowles, public watering place.,	3.00
	C. S. Hall, services as town clerk,	15.00
	C. S. Hail, recording 34 births, deaths, and marriages,	5.10

Paid:		
Feb. 28.	C. S. Hall, stationery,	\$ .40
	J. H. Dolbeer, breaking roads in District No. 18,	6.00
	J. B. Cass, work on highway in District No. 2,	3.00
	J. B. Cass, work on old bridge and furnishing rails for same,	2.00
	Z. Leighton, grade for road,	3.00
	Frank Marden, work on highway in District No. 17,	7.50
	Cyrus Marden, breaking roads in District No. 4,	4.50
	Dr. Hill, medical aid to Mrs. Jer emiah Sanborn,	6.35
	Dr. Hill, 37 certificates of births and deaths,	9.25
	Dr. Hill, medical aid for Constan tine Woods,	1.25
	Daniel Lewis, breaking roads in District No. 24,	3.00
	Noah W. Goss, 4 dinners for com missioners,	1.60
	Noah Goss, public watering place,	3.00
	Daniel Yeaton, collecting taxes in part,	35.00
	A. G. Noyes, services as treasurer,	30.00
	B. M. Towle, labor and breaking roads in District No. 15,	10.37
	Daniel Yeaton, abatement of taxes on tax list of 1890,	42.84
	S. B. Page, breaking roads in Dis trict No, 24,	<u>3.60</u>
	Total expenditures,	\$9,489.71
	Remaining on Daniel Yeaton's tax list for 1890,	\$283.24
	Remaining in treasury,	<u>851.35</u>
		\$10,624.30
	Total receipts,	\$10,624.30

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

Following is a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the town of Epsom for the year ending March 1, 1891 :

### RECEIPTS.

Received of N. W. Goss, treasurer, 1889,	\$273.37
selectmen, by note,	625.00
state treasurer, insurance tax,	19.50
railroad tax,	200.40
savings bank tax,	1,336.65
literary fund,	165.85
Merrimack county, support of poor,	558.61
town of Northwood,	323.91
town of Deerfield,	183.59
W. S. Rand, collector, 1888,	9.52
J. B. Tennant, J. W. Fowler, N. W. Goss, G. C. Knowles, bondsmen for W. S. Rand, collector, 1888, in full,	1,150.00
F. L. Seavey, collector, 1889, in full,	163.42
F. L. Seavey, interest on taxes,	9.85
D. Yeaton, collector, 1890,	5,310.92
D. Yeaton, interest on taxes,	<u>10.47</u>
	\$10,341.06

### EXPENDITURES.

Paid orders of selectmen, numbering from i to 198,	\$9,489.71
Remaining in hands of treasurer,	\$851.35

ALBERT G. NOYES,  
*Treasurer.*

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF TOWN, MARCH 1, 1891.

Indebtedness of town, by note,	\$2,205.66	
Interest on same,	158.10	
Due D. Yeaton, for collecting taxes,	20.00	
	—————	\$2,383.76

ASSETS

Balance in the treasury,	\$851.35	
Remaining on D. Yeaton's list,	283.24	
	—————	\$1,134.59

Actual indebtedness, \$1,249.17

Having examined the foregoing accounts of the selectmen and treasurer of Epsom, for the year ending March 1, 1891, we hereby certify that we found them correctly cast and supported by suitable reports.

JOHN H. DOLBEER,  
WILLIAM FOWLER,

*Auditors.*

Epsom, March 2, 1891.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE  
SWAMP ROAD,

The undersigned committee present the following report:

Amount appropriated for repairing and improving the Swamp Road, at the last annual March meeting,	\$100.00
Amount expended as follows : Paid:	
Henry O. Cass, labor on the road,	\$10.00
James H. Tripp, labor on the road and -clearing ditch for the improvement of the road,	13.00
George Sanders, labor on the road and in clearing out ditch,	<u>13.75</u>
	<u>\$36.75</u>
Balance unexpended	\$63.25

Respectfully submitted,  
GEORGE SANDERS,  
HENRY O. CASS,  
JAMES H. TRIPP,

*Committee.*



# Treasurer's Report for School District,

J. H. Tripp in account with the School District of Epsom  
for the year ending March 1, 1891 :

1890.		DR.
Mar. 1.	To balance in treasury,	\$143.84
<i>Amount of School Money for 1890.</i>		
	Railroad tax,	\$200.40
	Literary fund,	165.85
	Amount raised by the town for the support of schools,	1,063.00
	Received of selectmen for the purchase of school books,	250.00
	Received of selectmen for repairing school- houses,	150.00
	Received of J. C. Brown for zinc,	.32
	Received for books purchased by scholars,	<u>1.80</u>
		\$1,975.21

1890.		CR.
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*By amount paid Teachers*

Paid:		
June 26.	Josie B. Shaw,	\$63.00
	Josie D. Elliott,	49.50
	Fannie Ham,	63.00
	Hattie Brown,	49.50
	Annie H. Wentworth,	67.50
	Mary E. Hilton,	45.00
	Mattie Osborne,	49.50

<b>Paid:</b>		
Oct. 29.	Josie B. Shaw,	\$63.00
	May E. Dolbeer,	49.50
	Alma J. Robinson,	49.50
	Winifred M. Brown,	54.00
	Mary E. Hilton,	45.00
	Alice A. Watson,	63.00
	Laura A. Haynes,	63.00
	Josie B. Shaw,	70.00
1891.		
Feb. 6.	Alice Foss,	55.00
	Olive E. Freese,	50.00
	Winifred M. Brown,	60.00
	Laura A. Haynes,	70.00
	Gertie B. Glidden,	55.00
	George C. Smith,	<u>80.50</u>
		\$1,214.50

*Paid for board of Teachers.*

<b>Paid:</b>		
1890.	Mrs. S. B. Marden,	\$40.25
1891.	Susie I. Tripp,	<u>22.50</u>
		\$62.75

*Wood Bills.*

<b>Paid:</b>			
1891.	J. S. Philbrick,	2 1-2 cords of wood,	\$10.00
	J. H. Tripp,	7 1-2 "	30.00
	D. M. Philbrick,	1 "	4.00
	Samuel Martin,	1 "	3.00
	D. G. Chesley,	3 5-16 "	12.00
	H. O. Wells	1 "	4.00
	C. O. Brown,	4 "	<u>12.00</u>
			\$75.00

*Amount paid for Books.*

Paid :	
Porter & Coates,	\$153.46
American Book Co.,	15.02
Leach, Shewell & Sanborn,	30.56
Thompson, Brown & Co.	3.59
Iverson, Blakeman & Co.,	9.00
Edw. E. Babb,	15.12
D. G. Chesley,	6.15
C. O. Brown,	<u>3.30</u>
	\$236.20

*Repairs of School-Houses.*

Paid :	
1891. Grand Rapids School Furniture Co.,	\$64.12
J. B. Tennant, freight on school furniture, 9-23	
S. R. Yeaton, floorboards,	21.81
F. W. Tripp, drawing boards,	1.00
L. Eastman, six windows,	11.10
J. C. Brown, 8 days' work,	12.00
F. P. Ricker, 1 "	3.00
C. O. Brown, 6 1-2 "	9.75
" material for repairs,	11.52
Samuel Fowler, 3 days' work,	4.50
Freeman Marden. two windows, and fitting floor boards,	4.13
J. G. Fellows & Son, zinc,	<u>1.12</u>
	\$153.28

*Incidental Expenses.*

Paid:	
1891. Sundry persons for sawing wood,	\$14.99
" " cleaning school-houses,	8.00
C. O. Brown, school supplies,	6.40
" express and freight.	2.80
School District of Pittsfield, tuition for pupils,	8.00
" " Chichester, " "	38.00
" " Pembroke, tuition one pupil,	3.00

Paid :		
1891.	J. B. Tennant, school supplies,	\$2.12
	Silver & Hall, " "	2.09
	H. S. Knowles, " "	.35
	C. S. Heath, " "	.41
	A. P. Howe & Son, department cards,	1.35
	E. C. Eastman, one record book,	.90
	Moses Q. Burnham, repairs on stove,	.90
	Albert Pickard, grading around New Rye school-house,	2.50
	Benjamin Fowler, conveyance of scholars,	15.00
	Warren E. Hilliard, " "	7.00
	J. H. Tripp, stove-pipe, stationery, and labor,	<u>1.67</u>
		\$115.48
	Total amount of receipts,	\$1,975.21
	Amount paid teachers, including board, \$1,277.25	
	for wood,	75.00
	incidental expenses,	115.48
	repairing school-houses,	153.28
	books,	<u>236.20</u>
	Amount of expenditures,	<u>\$1,857.21</u>
	Balance in treasury,	\$118.00

JAMES H. TRIPP,  
*Treasurer.*

Having examined the foregoing account of the treasurer of the school district of Epsom for the year ending March 1, 1891, we hereby certify that we find them correct, and supported by proper vouchers.

JOHN H. DOLBEER,  
WILLIAM FOWLER,  
*Auditors.*

## SCHOOL REPORT.

*Fellow- Citizens of Epsom :*

We attempt again to report to you some of the results and some of our work during the school year just closed, together with some thoughts and suggestions in relation to our schools. We approach the subject with a delicate hesitancy, lest by some word we give offence when none is intended. The great question of " To be or not to be," or, in other words, Shall it be the town system or the district system ? is being discussed in our legislative halls and in every town and hamlet in the state. The result is anxiously awaited, especially by the friends of education and progress, who desire to have the town system continued. We shall give you some facts, figures, and arguments at the close of this report for your candid consideration. Through our treasurer, with a deep sense of our responsibility, we exhibit to you the manner in which we have expended the school money—produced mostly from the earth through your toil and by the sweat of your brows. The most of our schools have been eminently successful, especially the winter term.

The grade of our teachers, we have reason to believe, is above the average, although none of them have been Normal School graduates. There has been less friction and fewer complaints than usual. Your school board have worked harmoniously and assiduously to secure the best results from our teachers; and when possible we all have visited the different schools at the close of each term, after which we have compared our judgments, and we have unanimously agreed: therefore there will be no minority report.

The former custom of reporting each school and parading its faults or extolling its virtue, and berating or lauding its teacher has, by common consent, become a relic of the past;

and those teachers who may anxiously expect their names to appear herein will pardon our modesty, as those who have succeeded have had our private approval. And as angels are supposed to weep over our sins, so we weep over the less successful, and commend them to more congenial fields of labor. We wish especially to note some of the results of your especial appropriation last year. There is a commendable improvement in the pronunciation and definition of words on the part of both teachers and pupils. A new zest has been given to the study of geography by the globe and mural maps. They see at once the simplicity of the plane and spherical map, also the position of the commercial ports and cities of the world and their relation and dependence upon each other. The little numeral frame has opened to the infant mind a practical illustration of mental arithmetic. Grammar has been more simplified and better taught, and the manner of analyzing by diagrams has become more uniform and interesting. The first principles which underlie all mathematical operations seem to be too poorly understood by most of our scholars. This fault may be traced to former teaching, and the neglect of mental arithmetic. Be this as it may, the fact remains ; and, hoping to overcome this difficulty, we have put Colburn's Mental Arithmetic in all our schools, trusting that by earnest, persistent, and consecutive study a new insight may dawn upon our scholars. Do not understand by this that we have no good scholars in mathematics. Several have been nearly or quite through the complete arithmetic, and have demonstrated to us some of the most obtuse problems therein.

#### FREE TEXT-BOOKS.

The newly imposed labor delegated to the school board of caring for and furnishing text-books free to all the scholars in town is equal to all the former duties of the superintendent; and no one can in the future, without personal sacrifice of time and labor, discharge both of these duties for the small sum of thirty dollars. A return to the old district system will not lighten these duties, but will complicate them whenever a new

superintendent assumes the office. We welcome the free textbook system because it has come to stay; but someone must, the ensuing year, label, number and register each book, and furnish blanks published for this purpose to each teacher, and see that they are carefully and correctly kept. It has not been done on account of expense.

#### GOVERNMENT OF SCHOOLS.

The government of our schools has been all we could ask or desire. There has been no rebellion or corporal punishment that has come to our knowledge. Whispering or communication in school has been so rare that we have had no occasion to refer to it in any of our visits. This is surely a great improvement over former years. Scholars have treated their teachers and school board with urbanity, insomuch that we really flatter ourselves that we have their confidence and respect.

How shall we make our schools a success and reap the greatest harvest of usefulness for the amount of money that we expend yearly for them ? All will agree that we must have a liberal pecuniary support, then an earnest and progressive school board, good teachers, a cordial support of parents, and, lastly but not least, the punctual and regular attendance of our children. Let all these elements be in harmony and our schools will become our proudest institution, and our children will leave our schools with a feeling of regret, but well prepared to fill the high trusts and duties of life so soon to be thrust upon them.

#### SCHOOL VISITS.

Over three hundred and forty visits have been made to our schools the past year, and more than two hundred and fifty of them by the parents of the scholars. Mr. Foster was the only Reverend that was returned as a visitor in all of our schools. These visits are indeed another indication of interest. Fathers and mothers, when we have seen you enter your school-rooms we have wished a God bless you ! and the gleam of pleasure

that has flashed from your son's or daughter's eye has shown that our feelings have been reciprocated. Suppose that you cannot make a speech. A kind word to the teacher, a pleasant look, yea, your very presence, exert an influence as great as any words you may utter. Resolve that these visits be doubled the coming year.

#### TEACHERS.

Never has there been so great a demand for trained teachers. Before a law student can practice law he attends a law school, takes part in moot trials, then has to pass a rigid examination (sometime several) before he is permitted to practice. A medical student attends the medical school, where he becomes familiar with dissection, then attends clinic lectures, passes his examination and receives his license. The minister, the accountant, the chemist, and land surveyor have their preparatory schools. But for a teacher, a graduate from a one-horse academy, from a city high school, or from a private teacher, is a full-fledged subject. This person may have book knowledge enough, but knows nothing of the requirements of a teacher. If he succeeds, it is an exception. Then let us have trained teachers, either from long experience, or from some normal school.

#### RANK.

The average rank of our schools in town, as compared with other towns in the state, last year, is above the average, being 13 per cent, greater in daily attendance. Better average pay of our teachers, and our schools average a little larger in number of pupils. We have nearly five weeks more average schooling.

#### EMULATION.

Two prizes were offered to the scholars of the New Rye school—one prize to the one that made the most improvement in arithmetic, the other to the one that could put the best written diagram of a sentence on the blackboard, and no one scholar to have both prizes. As a result, with a school of



only ten scholars, the average daily attendance was over nine and one half, the greatest in town. Nor was this all. No school in town manifested so much interest, as shown by the large number of visitors at the final examination. Shall we presume too much if we recommend that you raise twenty-five dollars to be offered as prizes by your school board? We believe it will do more good than an additional one hundred dollars to increase the length of our schools.

THE OLD SYSTEM OR NEW.

To those that try to reason that a return to the old district system is better than the present town system, we will give a few extracts from the last report of our state Superintendent of Public Instruction. Speaking of the town system, he says it is "A system which the best thought; and the best experience of the age have pronounced essential to educational progress in our common schools. Our present system is a unit and is working without friction and with great success. It is to be hoped that no town will attempt to break the harmony." Speaking of a return to the old district system, he says, "I am confident that the sober, second thought of intelligent men would deprecate such action. There are doubtless persons who have thought themselves wronged under the present system. There were persons who so thought under the district system. No law can be so framed which will equalize the burdens of all. The education of a child living far from school must necessarily cost him more of physical labor than the education of one living at the door of the school-house. This is not the fault of the law and must happen under any system. The town system gives more schooling, better teaching, improved supervision and a more economical expenditure of school funds." The present law gave the state 8,287 1/5 more weeks of schooling last year than in 1885 under the old system, without any increase of taxation. In 1885 the whole number of weeks schooling in this town under the old system was 164 4-5, the longest school in any district was twenty weeks, shortest fifteen, average 18 weeks,

In 1891 the whole number of weeks schooling was 196, average to each district 28 1-7 weeks, an increase in town of 31 1-5 weeks, besides giving every scholar an equal amount of schooling. Can any one say in view of all these facts that the old unjust and unequal district system is the better ? .We append a statistical table.

**PERFECT ROLL OF HONOR.**

When a scholar has not been absent or tardy for more than one consecutive year the number of stars will denote years : Millie L. Hilliard, Alice F. Sargent, Clayton H. Fowler, Helen E. P. Yeaton, George H. Yeaton, M. Evangeline Brown, \*.\*\*Willie Brown, \*\* Delia F. Demers.

Names of those that have not been absent or tardy for one or more terms. The figures prefixed denote number of terms. 2 Bertha Cotterell, Mabel Sanders, Alice Sanders, 2 Ella Sanders, 2 Charles L. Roberts, 2 Rena M. M. Roberts, Alfred W. Burnham, Joseph A. Warren, 2 James Robinson, Harry D. Lewis, Walter Marden, Ida C. Hartford, 2 Winfred Packard, Clarence Libbey, 2 John C. Yeaton, 2 Ernest Hartford, Charles Rogers, Minot R. Yeaton, 2 Maud S. Critcherson, 2 Alice Yeaton, Millie G. Langley, Grace B. Sherburne, 2 Ernest E. Lewis, Walter C. Lewis, Gracie E. Page, Myrtie H. Page, Alice Fowler, Ida M. Fowler, Florence Fowler, Jennie P. Bickford, Almon Worth, 2 Mary A. Burnham, Bertha L. Burnham, Nellie R. Marden.

MRS. ANNIE M. WELLS,  
CYRUS O. BROWN,  
JAMES H. TRIPP,

School Board,

Epsom, March 1, 1891,

Name of School.	TEACHERS.																		
CENTRE,	Fannie A. Ham, Laura A. Haynes,	\$	9	18	15	18	18	17	16	6	8	J	1	1	3	1	2	40	
		28.00	9 10	17	15	17	17	17	16	6 2	8	8				3	2	21	
		28.0		15	12	15	15	15	14		8	8					2	23	
GOSSVILLE,	Iocie R. Shaw	28.00	9	22	20	22	24	19	15	14	12			6		22	10	29	
		28.0	9	24	20	24	24	19	20	16	12			6	1	1	19		
		28.00	10	24	21	24	24	21	22	21	13			4			10		
MOUNTAIN	Hattie M. Brown,	22.00	9	8	7	8	8	7	5	3	3								
		220	9	12	7	12	12	11	6	3	5	3				1	6	14	
		22.0	10	8	7	8	8	8	5	4	4	1				9			
SHORT FALLS,	Alice Free, Mary E. Hilton,	29.00	9 9	19	17	19	19	19	19	15	10			2		22	12	22	
		29.0		14	12	14	14	14	14	11	8			2		2	20		
		29.0	10	19	16	19	19	18	18	U s	7	2	2		1	1	22		
NEW ORCHARD	Effe Osborne, Winifred M. Brown	0																	
		22.00	9	10	9	10	10	10	10	0	4						6		
		24.00	9	17	10	12	12	10	12	B	4	2					8	1	
NORTH ROAD	A. H. Wentworth Alice A. Watson, Geo. C. Smith,	24.00	10	10	9	10	10	10	6	3	1						10		
		80.00	9	17	14	17	16	15	14	9	9	3		1			6		
		28.00	9	18	13	18	18	1	15	10	7	3		1			7	>22	
NEW RYE	Josie D. Elliott, Alma I. Robinson Girtie R. Glidden	30.00	11	10	9	10	10	10	10	8	6			1		1	9	J	
		22.00	9	11	9	11	11	9	9	9	6						20		
		22.00	10	12	8	12	12	10	10	10	7						9	13)	
		10	94	10	10	10	10	10	10	10						16			

[For complete table information, please view the original image. Ed.]