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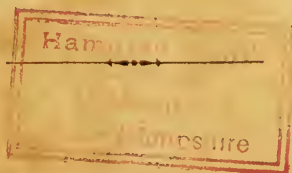
Superintending School Committee

OF

**THE TOWN OF LEE,**

FOR THE

Year Ending March 1st, 1865.



DOVER:  
H. H. GOODWIN, PRINTER.  
1865.

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# REPORT

OF THE

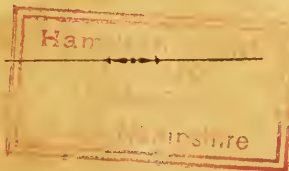
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# REPORT.

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The Superintending School Committee, in presenting this, their Annual Report, have to regret that the Selectmen of the Town were so unfortunate in their appointment of a School Committee, as to associate together on that Board three men, each of whom has a constitutional aversion to work. And while one, by his more extended political experience, has been able to dodge his part in the preparation of this Report, the other two have compromised the matter by dividing the work between themselves. Throwing ourselves, with this apology for any conflicting statements in the Report, (if any occur,) upon the indulgence of our fellow townsmen, we will proceed to make a few remarks on the school affairs of the town in general, before noticing the different schools separately.

## SCHOOL-HOUSES.

Although well aware that this subject has been harped upon by our predecessors from time immemorial, we cannot depart from the time-hallowed custom, and permit this opportunity of adding our mite to the accumulated mass of condemnation of Lee school-houses to pass unimproved, while the necessity for keeping this subject before the minds of our citizens is so disgracefully evident. It may be deemed hypercritical to say we have not got a well-planned, convenient school-house in town, but it is, nevertheless, a fact. The school-house of District No. 2 is, I think, acknowledged to be the best; but even here we find a very serious want of room.

The building has seats for forty scholars, and was doubtless intended to accommodate that number. Suppose, then, that we have that number of scholars, and that five-eighths of them, which is about a fair proportion, study written Arithmetic, the number being divided between two classes; we should then have one class of thirteen, and one of twelve scholars, with recitation seats, even when crowded as closely as

possible, for only eight, leaving the other four or five "out in the cold."

Another want felt in every school-house in town, is that of blackboards. We have in No. 2, which is far better furnished in that respect than any other house in town, blackboard room for five, or with a little crowding, seven; which, with the numbers given in the above supposed case, leaves five or six members of a class unemployed. This want might be supplied at a very small expense, and we hope it will be. We should be glad to dismiss the subject of school-houses here without annoying our readers with any notice of the school-house in District No. 1, could we do so consistently with our duty; but so long as the district permit this monument of their careless negligence, and indifference to their highest interests, to stand, (we will assign no worse reasons,) so long will it be the duty of every succeeding Committee to brand it with their condemnation. It would be better for the district to dispense with a Winter term altogether, than to endanger the lives of their children by sending them to sit six hours a day in a room where it is impossible in a moderately cold day, to maintain an even temperature for half an hour at a time. And as for employing a Teacher for this District, we can hardly conceive how a respectable man can so far forget his manhood as to ask a decent woman to go into such a hovel to teach. And we earnestly hope that no future Prudential Committee will ever be called upon to do so. The other five are intermediate between these two.

#### ATTENDANCE.

Irregularity of attendance is one of the commonest, as well as one of the greatest difficulties with which the teachers in this town have to contend. We doubt very much if the parents are aware of the magnitude of this evil, or realize its injurious effects. There have been during the past year six hundred and forty-one instances of tardiness, three hundred and twenty-three dismissals. Allowing the average tardiness to be ten minutes, and the dismissals to average half an hour before the school was dismissed, we have, reckoning five days to the week, for the entire loss of time during the year, nearly nine weeks, or about one entire term. Are the citizens of Lee willing to dispense with one term of school? Would it not be better to do so, rather than to continue the present course? It is for them to consider and decide these questions, and act according to their decision.

Appended are short notices of individual schools. We have aimed to represent things as we found them, without addition or detraction. And whatever errors occur, are errors of judgment, and not of intention.

## DISTRICT NO. 1. (TURNPIKE.)

Summer Term, 10 weeks. Number of scholars, 25 ; average attendance, 15 ; instances of tardiness, 20 ; of dismissal, 4. Miss Kate Hamilton of Lee, Teacher. This was Miss Hamilton's second term in this district ; and was, like the first, generally satisfactory to the residents. As I was prevented from visiting the school myself, and Miss Hamilton is to be spoken of in another connection, I shall risk no opinion on her merits or success.

Winter Term, 11 weeks. Number of scholars, 24 ; average attendance, 16 ; instances of tardiness, 99 ; of dismissal, 16. Miss Frances S. Randall, Teacher. No teacher in town has had so many difficulties to contend with as Miss Randall ;—a school-room which it was impossible to keep comfortable ;—former school-mates for pupils ;—a district prejudiced against her ; and a negligent Prudential Committee. The worst feature observed in the school, was the too evident want of thoroughness in Arithmetic. The other classes appeared ordinarily well. On the whole, we think that, had the Prudential Committee done his duty in making the school-room as comfortable as possible under the circumstances, and the district shown the same readiness and zeal in co-operating with the teacher, that they did in condemning her, the school would have been as good as the average of schools kept by those who are residents of the district in which they teach and former members of the school. Best records of attendance, Summer Term, were those of Annie and Martha Lane, as follows : Tardy, 0 ; dismissed, 0 ; absent, 0. Best record, Winter Term, that of Frank D. Randall : Tardy, 0 ; dismissed, 0 ; absent, 1.

CHARLES H. LANE, Prudential Committee.

## DISTRICT NO. 2. (MAST ROAD.)

Summer Term, 10 weeks. Number of scholars, 31 ; average attendance, 22 ; instances of tardiness, 32 ; of dismissal, 10. Miss Francena J. Sawyer, Teacher. Winter Term, 12 weeks. Number of scholars, 28 ; average attendance, 26 ; instances of tardiness, 132 ; of dismissal, 72. Mr. Edwin J. Roberts, Teacher.

Our worthy Prudential Committee (whom, by the way, we hope to see retained in office,) was fortunate in securing, for both terms, teachers true and tried. Miss Sawyer is too well known in Lee, as a successful teacher, to need any commendatory notice from us. Mr. Roberts has



also been noticed in former reports, but has not, we think, received his deserts so fully as Miss Sawyer. He has labored hard during the past winter for the interests of the school, and has met with very gratifying success. He well says in his remarks, "It has been my constant aim during the term to ensure thoroughness and diligence in study. One great obstacle with which we have had to contend has been the *irregularity of attendance*. Certainly it is to be hoped that the parents in No. 2 will soon awaken to a sense of their duty, and not allow their children to be absent a single day." We heartily endorse every word he has here written, and wish the latter part of it could be written in the hearts of the parents in living fire.

Best record for the Summer Term, that of Lavina O. Chesley; tardy, 0; dismissed, 0; absent, 0. Best record, Winter Term, that of Nellie N. Caverno; tardy, 0; dismissed, 0; absent, 0.

JOSEPH JONES, Prudential Committee.

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### DISTRICT NO. 3.

This school was successfully managed by Miss Belinda S. Bunker of Rye; and when we say that her labors were eminently successful, we only speak the sentiments of the entire district. She entered upon her duties with energy and zeal, and pursued them with the same spirit until the close. Good order, attention and diligence characterized the school, and good improvement was made in all of the studies taught.

The length of the school (only one term,) was 8 weeks. Whole number attending, 10; average attendance, 8 1-2; instances of tardiness, 15; instances of dismissal, 3. School money

JAMES J. GRIFFIN, Prudential Committee.

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### DISTRICT NO. 4.

Both terms of this school were kept by Belinda S. Bunker of Rye; and it is gratifying to be able to remark that a decided improvement was manifested in her method of teaching. The discipline and order of the school during both terms were very good, and satisfactory advancement was made in the studies pursued. The examinations were made interesting by the attendance of a large number of parents and friends,



as well as by the exercises of the scholars. And upon the whole this may be regarded as one of our best schools.

The length of the Summer School was 8 weeks; the length of the Winter School, 9. Whole number attending in Summer, 37; in Winter, 44; average attendance in Summer, 32 1-2; in Winter, 41; instances of tardiness in Summer, 11; in Winter, 73; instances of dismissal in Summer, 2; in Winter, 54; cases of corporeal punishment, in Summer, 0; in Winter, 1. School money

ISRAEL BARTLETT, Prudential Committee.

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### DISTRICT NO. 5.

This school was kept by Miss Kate Hamilton of Lee, who appeared interested in her school, and ready to do her duty as a teacher; the scholars appearing well, minding their own business, diligent to their lessons, and ready to recite them when call for. The order of the school was good, without being stiff and formal. The scholars deserve praise for the unusually neat appearance of their writing books. The degree of improvement gave general satisfaction.

The length of the school (only one term,) was 14 weeks. Whole number attending school 19. Average attendance 12. Instances of tardiness 58. Instances of dismissal 7. Cases of corporeal punishment 1. School money

DAVID S. JENKINS, Prudential Committee.

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### DISTRICT NO. 6. (WADLEY'S.)

Summer Term, 11 weeks. Number of scholars, 30; average attendance, 22. Instances of tardiness, 55; of dismissal, 75.

Winter Term, 10 weeks. Number of scholars, 38; average attendance, 28. Instances of tardiness, 89; of dismissal, 63. Miss Laura A. Norris, teacher, both terms.

During the Summer term, thoroughness was a thing unknown; the ground gone over, two or three times what it ought to have been. We doubt whether the whole of the first class in Arithmetic, represented to have been through Greenleaf's Intellectual Arithmetic, had ever read all the problems over. The Winter term at examination, showed a

decided improvement, and the teacher gave general satisfaction to the District.

Best record Summer term that of Lucy J. Smith: tardy, 1; dismissed, 0; absent, 0. Best record Winter term that of Josephine Stilson: tardy, 0; dismissed, 1; absent, 0.

GREENLEAF DURGIN, Prudential Committee.

### DISTRICT NO. 7. (LANG'S.)

Summer Term, 9 weeks. Number of scholars, 16; average attendance, 12. Instances of tardiness, 32; of dismissal, 4. Miss Rebecca S. Harvey, teacher. The examination of the half of the school present on the day of our final visit, was highly creditable to Miss Harvey. It is not very courteous treatment of the teacher, for the parents to allow their children to be absent on examination days. And it is absurd to expect the Committee to report on a school without giving them a chance to see it. Best record, that of Mary Abbie Ewer: tardy, 0; dismissed, 1; absent, 0.

The Winter school was kept by B. Van Dame, of Nottingham, about three weeks. He was out of health when he commenced the school, and at the end of said time he left; and the school was continued by George E. Durgin, of Lee. Although laboring somewhat under circumstances of discouragement, he has shown himself a workman that needeth not to be ashamed." He has been devoted and unwearied in his labors for the interests of the school and the improvement of those under his charge. Good order and discipline, diligent mental application in the studies pursued, — were the marked features in the character of this school.

The length of the school in Winter was 12 weeks. Whole number attending school, 30. Average attendance, 24 5-6. Instances of tardiness, 21. Instances of dismissal, 13. School money

B. F. LANG, Prudential Committee.

G. W. HOITT.

T. M. THOMPSON.

W. N. LOCKE.



