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REPORT

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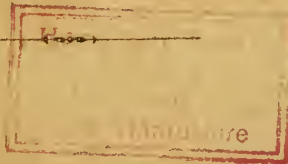
Superintending School Committee

OF THE

TOWN OF LEE,

FOR THE

Year ending March 1st, 1867.



DOVER:
H. H. GOODWIN, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER,
1867.

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REPORT

OF THE

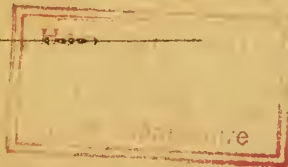
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REPORT.

THE *Superintending School Committee* of Lee, in accordance with the law and common usage, respectfully submit the following brief report to the inhabitants of the town for their consideration. Many of your former reports have been very full and extended, presenting many valuable ideas and suggestions for your careful consideration. How well these have been heeded, we must leave for the parents and guardians to judge; but from our little experience and observation as Committee, we believe them to be quite as applicable to the present wants and condition of our schools, as when made. In considering the condition and progress of our schools during the past year, your Committee would say that the teachers have labored to do well; but they brought different attainments in qualifications and experience, and ^{arrived} ~~aimed~~ at somewhat different results. Some of the scholars, at the commencement of the terms, appeared rather disposed to disregard the order of the school; but by vigorous exertions of the teacher and cooperation of parents, they readily assumed their usual good behaviour and habits of study. System, discretion, perseverance and close application are the essential requisites for a good school. Your Committee in their labor with the schools, found them quite deficient in text books; some pupils without any, others with books so badly worn that they were hardly worth the name of books, and many of the scholars had become so familiar with them that they created but little interest. They also found different kinds of grammars in the same schools, causing unnecessary classes, embarrassing the teacher and wasting much time. Children are fond of novelty and changes, and when engaged in their studies, if they can be profitably indulged, we think they should be accommodated, to a reasonable extent at least.— Under these circumstances, your Committee thought it advisable to dispose of the old books and substitute new ones. After due consideration we introduced Hillard's Series of Readers, and Quackenbos' Grammar, and if we are allowed to base our judgment on the testimony of the teachers and our own observations, we think the interest increased and improvement made were fully commensurate with the expense incurred. Much has been said in former reports upon the benefit of

school apparatus ; but it appears that very little attention has been given to the subject. Many of our schools have little or no apparatus, black boards excepted, and these of small dimensions. We are of the opinion that no money would be better expended than for every district to purchase a terrestrial globe, and no article of apparatus would be of more utility. It is our belief that a scholar commencing the study of geography, will gain more practical and definite knowledge in one week with the assistance of a globe, than in three weeks without one. It is with much difficulty that the teacher can impress upon the mind of the pupil a definite idea of the artificial divisions, the relative positions of the different countries, and the yearly and diurnal revolutions of the earth. Without the assistance of a globe the memory is taxed with the whole burthen ; but with the assistance of one much is learned by observation.

Another subject, to which we wish to call your attention, is irregularity of attendance of scholars at school. Parents and guardians should use greater exertions to secure the punctual and regular attendance of children under their care. They are chiefly responsible for this neglect, and it is sincerely to be hoped that they will awake ⁿ to a deeper sense of their duty. Scholars thus situated get behind others in their class, loose much of their interest in study, and other duties in the school-room.

VISITING SCHOOLS.

It gives us pleasure to notice that the parents, in some few districts, begin to realize the importance of visiting the school-room ; thereby increasing their own interest as well as that of the teacher and pupils. The cheerful hearty cooperation of parents with teacher and scholars is essential to the greatest good of a school ; and in no other way can this cooperation be better accomplished than by frequent visits from parents at the school. There have been during the past year three hundred and forty-two instances of tardiness, one hundred and two of dismissals.

The winter term of District No. 7, is not taken in the estimate, the teacher failing to return his Register. Following we give brief notices of individual schools.

DISTRICT NO. 1. (TURNPIKE.)

Length of Summer Term, 8 weeks ; whole number of scholars, 29 ; average attendance 26 ; instances of tardiness 4 ; of dismissal 0. This school was taught by Miss SARAH J. DREW of Durham. The school is made up of small children and requires diligence, perseverance and patience. Miss Drew spoke favorably of her scholars and thought she might accomplish much good. The Committee visited the school twice during the term and found the order and diligence very good under the circumstances. The school house, although recently repaired, is poorly adapted to the convenience and comfort of the pupils, and has a dismal location. The teacher presents quite a number of scholars for special notice for punctual attendance, habits of study and moral deportment ; but the general conduct has been so good that we think it not worth while to particularize. Miss Drew furnished one of the best registers in town, a decided improvement upon former ones. Wages per month including board, \$20.

Winter Term, 10 weeks 1 1-2 days ; number of scholars, 29 ; average attendance, 23 56-100 ; instances of tardiness, 81 ; of dismissals 6. The average attendance of this term was not so good as in the summer, a number of scholars not entering at the commencement. Miss Belle S. Hoitt of Lee, had charge of the school, an experienced energetic and living teacher, who made her presence felt in all parts of the school-room, inspiring new life and diligence. Good progress was made in all departments. The examination was very interesting, consisting of a review of the studies, a declamation from each member of the school, and closed with a valediction. The teacher remarks "if District No. 1 wants a good school it must take more interest." Every parent should visit the school once at least each term ; for in her experience she finds nothing that contributes more to stimulate the pupil and encourage the teacher. Best record of scholarship, Charles H. Parks. Scholars neither absent nor tardy, Annie J. Hoitt, Carrie E. Hoitt, Charles Frank Layn, Herbert C. Randall. Those neither absent nor dismissed, but once, Amanda L. Randall, Annie L. Layn, Martha Layn. Wages including board, \$26. Amount of school money, \$112.45.

Prudential Committee, ISRAEL DeMERRITT.

DISTRICT No. 2. (MAST ROAD.)

Summer Term, 6 weeks ; number of scholars, 26 ; average attendance, 22 17-60 ; instances of tardiness, 14 ; of dismissal, 3. Best record of attendance, Ellen N. Caverno, Martha J. Randall, Lavinia

Halloway, Annie M. Randall, Charles E. Thompson, Nellie F. Chesley, neither absent, tardy or dismissed. Winter Term, 7 weeks and 1 day; number of scholars, 29; average attendance, 22; instances of tardiness, 16; of dismissal, 21. Best record of attendance, Nellie F. Chesley, Ellen M. James, Ellen N. Caverno, Charles E. Thompson, George Drew,—neither tardy, absent or dismissed.

Both terms were taught by Miss SARAH CAVERNO of Strafford, a teacher who has the requisite qualifications to keep a good school. Miss Caverno managed her school with ease and gentleness, secured the affections of her pupils, and sustained good order. She labored with zeal and energy, inspiring her scholars to increased action. The exercises at the close of the Summer term were marked, for diligence, industry, thoroughness and good improvement. The committee were not present at the close of the Winter term from causes beyond their control, but from personal observation at its commencement have every reason to believe that the interest and success of the school continued unabated.

Wages, including board, in Summer, \$17; Winter, including board, \$24.80. Amount of school money, \$76.28. Prudential Committee, JOHN CAVERNO.

DISTRICT No. 3. (WEDNESDAY HILL.)

This District had only one Term of 9 weeks during the year. This school was managed by Miss LYDIA C. DAME of Nottingham. Miss Dame manifested much anxiety for the welfare of her scholars, and appeared deeply impressed with the responsibility of her occupation. She sustained good discipline through the term, and evidently has a capacity to govern a much larger school. The improvement in the branches taught was quite commendable, and showed a fair degree of thoroughness.

Best record of attendance, Joseph I. York, Emma E. Jenkins.—Wages per month, including board, \$20. Amount of school money, \$44.68. Prudential Committee, JOSEPH E. JENKINS.

DISTRICT No. 4. (HILL.)

Length of Summer Term, 10 weeks; whole number of scholars, 28; average attendance, 26 19-50; instances of tardiness, 54; dismissals, 12. Winter Term, 8 3-5 weeks; number of scholars, 35; average attendance 30 1-41; instances of tardiness 111; of dismissals 40;—Best record of attendance, Carrie Comings, Bessie McQuestion, Frank P. Plumer. Teacher of both terms, ELLEN A. JENKINS of Madbury. For the past few years this District has been very fortunate in securing competent teachers, each succeeding one striving to emulate her predecessor. Miss JENKINS has fully sustained her reputation as a teacher and the former good standing of her school. Her whole time and attention were devoted to her occupation, and secured a corresponding interest from a greater portion of her school. Special attention was given to reading and a very decided improvement made. Her method

of teaching was instructive and thorough, which was quite apparent at the close of the school. The scholars were punctual and attentive at the examination and were accompanied with a goodly number of parents and others, who were highly pleased and remarked, "The school never appeared better". The following is from her record:—The school has been very pleasant and I have tried to do my duty faithfully; but attribute a large portion of its success to the almost universal interest manifested by parents and others in the District. There are scholars in school who would be an ornament to a higher one; and I cannot speak too highly of their diligence in study, and kindness to their teacher. Wages per month including board, in summer, \$20, in winter including board, \$22. Amount of school money, \$100.84.

Prudential Committee, ALLEN PLUMER.

DISTRICT NO. 5. (HOOK.)

The instruction of this school, which had but one term, was entrusted to the care of Miss BELINDA S. BUNKER of Rye, a teacher of established reputation and experience; and of whom frequent reference has been made in former Reports. The number of scholars in this District is small and of medium age; and so to speak, is the best graded school in town. The school was orderly and quiet, showing much deference to their teacher, and evident indications of parental influence. The progress in the various branches taught was highly commendable and thorough. The improvement in writing and the neatness of the books, were worthy of special notice. Remarks from the teacher:—"I am to say that this term has been pleasantly, and I hope profitably spent. My scholars have been punctual in attendance, diligent and attentive to their studies, kind and courteous to each other, respectful and obedient to their teacher. Quarreling and profane language have been unknown to me during the term. The parents manifested great interest in furnishing their children with books, and by occasional visits to the school, which I think is encouraging to both teacher and scholars."

Length of school, 12 weeks; number of scholars, 17; average attendance, 14 19-20; instances of tardiness 3; of dismissals 2; best record of attendance, Mary V. Jenkins, Emma Bartlett, Ella F. Burley, Sarah A. Burley. Wages including board, \$24. Amount of school money, \$67.22. Prudential Committee, EDWARD BARTLETT.

DISTRICT NO. 6. (WADLEY'S.)

Length of Summer Term, 10 weeks; whole number of scholars, 24; average attendance, 21 13-50. Best record of attendance, Frank P. Sawyer, Bennie G. Durgin, John W. Durgin, Josiah F. Saywer, Lydia A. Richardson.

This school was managed by Miss BELINDA S. BUNKER of Rye, who seldom fails of good success, the consequent result of energy, zeal and faithfulness combined. We believe all reasonable expectations were realized, and general satisfaction given. Miss Bunker speaks in favorable terms of her scholars. Wages per month,

Winter Term, 9 weeks ; whole number of scholars, 23 ; average attendance, 17 5-11 ; instances of tardiness, 23 ; of dismissals, 16. Best record of attendance, John W. Durgin, Bennie Durgin, Rosa J. Tuttle, neither absent, dismissed or tardy. Miss ADDIE P. BUNKER of Rye, teacher. Miss Bunker has had but little experience in teaching ; but labored no doubt conscientiously for the welfare of her school. The order of the school was commendable, and the diligence of pupils respectable. Miss Bunker had to contend with the difficulty usually characteristic of this school, irregularity of attendance. From remarks in the Register, the general improvement in studies was not satisfactory to the teacher, nor was it to the Committee. The average attendance of this term was less than three fourths of the whole number belonging to the school. When will the parents in No. 6 arouse from their indifference, and contribute that united effort which is so essential to the interest of their school ?

Wages per month including board, \$20. Amount of school money, \$108.47. Prudential Committee, FRANK SAWYER, JOSIAH DURGIN.

DISTRICT NO. 7. (LANG'S.)

Length of Summer Term, 11 weeks ; whole number of scholars, 19 ; average attendance, 17 ; instances of tardiness, 12 ; of dismissals, 0. Miss C. MILLIE COMINGS, teacher. This was the first experience of Miss Comings at teaching ; but we would say that she gave strong evidence of her fitness and capacity, and with a due share of experience will rank among our first teachers. Miss Comings sustained good discipline and her dignity exceedingly well through the term. The pupils were generally industrious, and showed much respect for their teacher. Her method of conducting some of the exercises was somewhat novel ; but had the merit of securing a close application to study, and more attention in recitations. The exercises at the examination were well conducted and gave much credit to teacher and scholars. We believe she gave general satisfaction to the District. Wages aside of board, \$12.

The Winter Term of this school was taught by Mr. JEWETT SWASEY of Exeter. The school was well organized, the pupils diligent, punctual in lessons, and attentive in recitations. His manner of instruction was original, varied and thorough, and well calculated to interest the school. The committee made two visits during the term, once near its close, in connection with the Commissioner of Common Schools, who spoke in favorable terms of the teacher and condition of the school. Mr. Swasey has not returned his Register, consequently we can give only an indefinite report of his school. Amount of school money, \$94.83.

Prudential Committee, GEORGE W. PLUMER.

Although our schools have not all of them been quite what may be desired ; and our School-rooms, Committees, and Teachers may be wanting in perfection, still in our opinion, a fair improvement has been made the past year.

ALLEN PLUMER,	} <i>Supt. S. Committee</i>
EDWARD BARTLETT,	

