

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Superintending School Committee,

OF THE TOWN OF LEE,

FOR THE YEAR 1871.

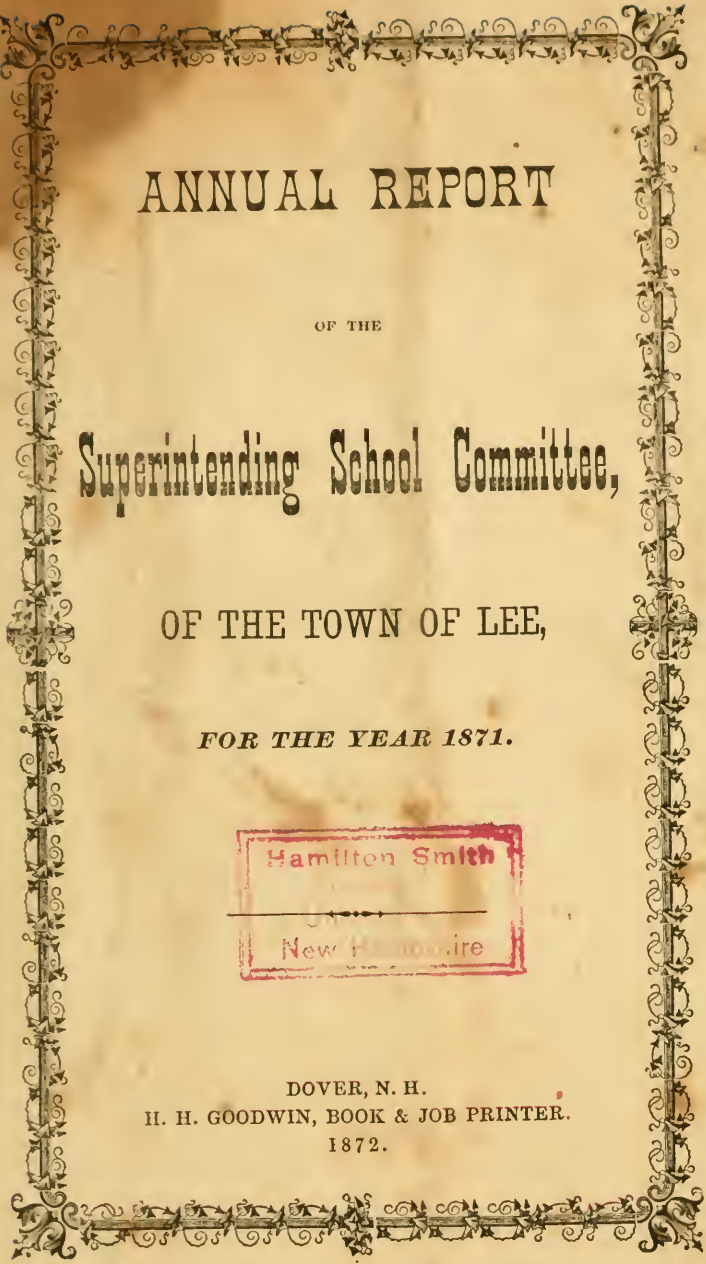
Hamilton Smith

New Hampshire

DOVER, N. H.

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REPORT.

In conformity with common custom and requirements, the School Committee respectfully submits the following Report upon the common schools of Lee for the past year :

DISTRICT No. 1—*Turnpike.*

Summer Term, 9 weeks ; whole number of scholars, 32 ; average attendance, 30 9-32 ; instances of tardiness, 15 ; of dismissals, 4. This term of school, under the care of Miss Annie M. Stevens of Durham, has been a profitable one. The teacher labored most industriously for the improvement of her scholars, sparing no pains to make them interested in the duties of the school-room generally. Her manner of imparting instruction was varied and well adapted to the understanding of her pupils. The progress and thoroughness of the studies pursued were very good, and showed a mutual effort between teacher and scholars. The order and discipline excellent ; the attendance of scholars punctual and regular, which indicates much interest on the part of parents and guardians. The examination at the close of the term was very creditable, and appeared to be duly appreciated by quite a number of the parents who were present. Scholars not absent during the term, Cylena DeMeritte, Edna DeMeritte, Carrie E. Hoitt, Annie J. Layn, Annie J. Hoitt, Eddie Ellison, and Willie Ellison. Wages per month, including board, \$28.

Winter Term, 14 weeks ; whole number of scholars, 31 ; average attendance, 24 1-2 ; instances of tardiness, 64 ; of dismissals, 3. From the shortness of the vacation between the summer and winter term, the Committee did not visit the school until the third week of its commencement. With its former teacher I found the school, as in the summer, orderly, quiet, and the pupils quite as much engaged in their studies. The teacher spoke very encouragingly upon the condition of the school, and appeared to anticipate a better improvement than at the former term. From the returned Register, it does not appear that the attendance was as large and as regular as at the summer term ; but the examination of the scholars present at the close of the school, showed evidently they had retained their former interest and diligence, and are worthy of special notice. We copy the following from the teacher's report : "Much credit is due to the scholars for the interest they have manifested during the entire term. I can safely say that all of those present at the close of the school deserve special commendation ; they have done all that they could do to make the school pleasant and profitable, working with more earnestness the last part of the term

than at the first. Although the term has been long, I think the scholars, as well as myself, can say that it has been pleasant, and they know that they have done much credit to themselves." The teacher returns a neat and well filled Register. Wages, including board, \$28 per month. Amount of school money, \$177.20.

S. P. HOITT, *Prudential Committee.*

DISTRICT No. 2—*Mast Road.*

Summer Term, 6 weeks; whole number of scholars, 20; average attendance, 17; instances of tardiness, 12; of dismissal, 3. Teacher, Miss Rose M. Cramm, of Deerfield. The school, with its neat and inviting accommodations, appears to have been a very pleasant and acceptable one. The teacher has the faculty of gaining the good will of her pupils and governing them without much severity. For the shortness of the term the advancement in different studies was very commendable, and the smaller scholars especially showed very marked improvement. I think the teacher did her duty faithfully, and believe gave general satisfaction. The attendance was very full and regular, and quite a number of scholars were not absent one-half day during the term.

Winter Term, 11 weeks; number of scholars, 22; average attendance, 16; instances of tardiness, 41; of dismissal, 15. From the success of Miss Cramm during the summer school, the Committee thought it advisable to employ her for the winter term. She labored with that faithfulness and diligence that characterized her in the former term, and has been equally successful through the winter school. The scholars were strongly attached to the teacher, and were obedient and respectful. Miss Cramm speaks very favorably of her scholars, and remarked "that the time had been pleasantly spent." The School Register is neatly kept, but deficient in remarks. Wages per month, including board, \$24. Amount of school money, \$116.17.

JOHN CAVERNO, *Prudential Committee.*

DISTRICT No. 3—*Wednesday Hill.*

There was but one term in this district, that beginning the latter part of autumn, which continued 10 4-5 weeks. Number of scholars, 13; average attendance, 9; instances of tardiness, 11; of dismissal, 6. This school was under the care of Miss Olevia J. Otis of Lee,—a teacher of not great experience, but who has proved herself well adapted to the occupation of teaching. The number of scholars in this district is quite too small to make the school a very interesting one; but Miss Otis seems to have supplied the defect, in a measure, by that attention and diligence attendant on all faithful instructors. The scholars, with one exception, were diligent and well disposed, and treated their teacher with deference. The general improvement of the school was good and satisfactory. Names of scholars neither absent or tardy, Hattie A. Chesley and Nettie A. Otis. Remarks from the teacher—"I will add that my scholars, with one exception, have been kind, respectful, and obedient; they have also been diligent and interested as much as possible, considering the number. I have tried to make it a term of benefit both morally and intellectually; and whether my efforts are crowned

with success or not, the future must decide. Wages, including board, per month, \$24. Amount of school money, \$69.81.

ABRAM CLARK, *Prudential Committee.*

DISTRICT No. 4—*Hill.*

Summer Term, 7 weeks ; whole number of scholars, 26 ; average attendance, 24 ; instances of tardiness, 9 ; of dismissal, 1. Mrs. Rebecca S. Thing was the teacher. The school this term consisted principally of quite small scholars, between the ages of four and nine years ; and to many teachers it would not have been as interesting as if it had been composed of older and more advanced scholars ; neither could it be expected that the progress of the scholars would be as apparent as in a more advanced school. But the teacher, who has had much experience, readily adapted herself to the standing and capacity of her pupils, and evidently spared no pains for their improvement. The order and discipline of the school was very commendable, considering that quite a number of the scholars were not accustomed to the restraints of the school-room. The examination at the close of the term showed a marked improvement, and think the satisfaction quite general. The attendance of scholars was very regular and full, ten of whom were not absent one-half day. Wages, including board, per month, \$32. Amount of school money, \$155.70.

N. D. MESERVE, *Prudential Committee.*

Winter Term, 11 1-2 weeks ; whole number of scholars, 32 ; average attendance, 25 ; instances of tardiness, 83 ; of dismissal, 7. In reporting this school I regret to say that it has not been as profitable as might be desired or reasonably expected. From impressions that had their origin independent of the school, but unwisely associated with it, much injury to its usefulness has been the consequence. The school was taught by Mr. N. P. Lawrence, who labored I think very conscientiously, and had he received the undivided support of the district, undoubtedly the result of his labors would have been much more satisfactory. The rules and regulations of the school were not severe or arbitrary, but such as all dutiful scholars could readily obey. Many of the scholars that attended the school with the intention of improving their time have made very commendable progress, while others, with different motives and under adverse influences, can boast of less improvement. Had some of the scholars labored as earnestly for themselves as the teacher labored for them, the school would have been more beneficial and harmonious. As long as parents indulge in sentiments prejudicial to common education, so long we may expect disobedient scholars and unprofitable schools. And now, with all charity, allow me to say that parents cannot be too guarded in making remarks unfavorable to teachers in the presence of their children ; for once the scholar loses his respect for the teacher, his duties in the school-room become irksome and involuntary. Wages, including board, \$32 per month.

N. D. MESERVE, *Prudential Committee.*

DISTRICT No. 5—*Hook.*

Summer Term, 6 2-5 weeks ; whole number of scholars, 26 ; average attendance, 23 11-32 ; instances of tardiness, 28 ; of dismissal, 0.

From concert of action and union of interests manifested in this district, with occasional contributions for private instruction, this school ranks one of the first in town. It has been under the instruction of Miss Arianna G. Bartlett of Lee each term. Although it is but recently that the teacher was a schoolmate with her scholars, and has had but little experience in teaching, yet she maintained her dignity and authority exceedingly well. The order and general arrangements of the school were very good; the pupils industrious, respectful and well disposed. The teacher has proved herself a diligent and thorough worker, and has been successful in her undertaking. The general advancement and thoroughness of the scholars are worthy of praise, and they have set an example that would be well to follow hereafter. The general attendance of scholars has been good, eleven of whom have not been absent one half-day, and five but one day.

Winter Term, 11 weeks; whole number of scholars, 25; average attendance, 21 4-11; instances of tardiness, 30; of dismissal, 3. This term with the former teacher appears but a continuation of that energy and diligence so noticeable during the summer term, and believe the interest and good management of the school continued unabated throughout the entire term. The teacher returns a very neat Register, but does not give her experience in the school. Wages per month, including board, \$24. Amount of school money, \$114.71.

JOHN C. BARTLETT, *Prudential Committee*.

DISTRICT No. 6—*Wadleigh's*.

Summer Term, 9 weeks; number of scholars, 25; average attendance, 23 7-43; instances of tardiness, 17; of dismissal, 3. Teacher, Miss Millie Comings of Lee. In visiting the school, I found the order and arrangements very good, the scholars diligent and quiet, with few exceptions. Miss Comings has had considerable experience in teaching, and has generally met with good success. She appeared much interested in the duties of her school, and from the progress made believe her interest continued through the term. All branches received due attention, and some, especially the exercises in reading, showed a very marked improvement. A review of the studies at the closing examination was quite interesting, most of the scholars answering readily and very correctly, which gave evidence of a good degree of thoroughness. We willingly accord much praise to the parents and scholars for the punctual and regular attendance, eight of the scholars not being absent one-half day during the term. The teacher testifies to her experience in the school in the following remarks:—"This term has been on the whole a pleasant one. The scholars were kind and obliging, and with but few exceptions obedient." Wages per month, including board, \$32. Amount of school money, \$184.82.

HOWARD M. GLIDDEN, *Prudential Committee*.

The Winter Term, under the care of Mr. B. Frank Davis of Lee, is not yet finished. It will continue about fourteen weeks from its commencement. The teacher labors earnestly and shows a willingness to render all necessary assistance whenever required; and should he meet with a corresponding effort from his scholars, undoubtedly it would be a profitable term. But the lenient hand is not always as well rewarded as a more stern and vigorous one. The scholars of this district have a

good share of aptness, as shown in past terms, and it is hoped that they have not allowed it to remain unemployed in the present one. Wages per month, including board, \$30.

DISTRICT No. 7—*Lang's.*

Summer Term, 9 weeks ; number of scholars, 19 ; average attendance, 17 ; instances of tardiness, 11 ; of dismissal, 4. Winter Term, 11 weeks ; number of scholars, 20 ; average attendance, 15 ; instances of tardiness, 22 ; of dismissal, 3. Miss Lydia A. Watson of Nottingham, teacher of each term. This school has but a small number of scholars, and in their neat little school-room I found them quite happy and industrious. The school was free from all unnecessary noise and bustle, and I most willingly acknowledge one indispensable requisite in the teacher, and that is *good order*. The school apparently is easily governed, and to much of this I ascribe good government at home. The scholars were much interested in their studies and took pride in having perfect lessons. Perchance a wrong answer was given in recitation ; it told very readily on the feelings of the scholar. The advancement during the term was very good and commendable, and we believe the teacher discharged her obligations in a faithful and acceptable manner. The attendance through the term was very full and regular.

WINTER TERM.—The Committee, for want of notice, did not visit the school until some weeks from the commencement ; but on that occasion we found the school equally prosperous with the former term. Everything in connection with the exercises appeared harmonious and satisfactory. The Committee was present at the close of the term, and feels warranted in saying that the character of the school had been fully sustained, but regret to state that the attendance had not been so good as at the former term, averaging but 75 per cent. of the scholars. The teacher fails to give any remarks in her returned Register, as should have been done. Wages per month, including board, \$28 in summer, and \$32 in winter. Amount of school money, \$159.59.

AMOS E. PIPER, *Prudential Committee.*

TEXT BOOKS.

At the commencement of the summer schools, there were wanted more Spelling Books and of a different character. The Old North American was exchanged for Town's and Holbrook's Progressive—a change much needed. Although our schools are tolerably supplied with Text Books, still there are some that should not be dispensed with. If we send our children to school to learn the English language, it does not seem wise to withhold the key to it. It is seldom that we see a Dictionary in use in our schools, but believe every scholar should be taught the use of it who can read in the Fourth Reader.

The importance of common education is a subject that should interest every individual, and more especially parents and guardians, and whoever withholds his influence deprives the rising generation of a portion of its undoubted inheritance.

OUR PRESENT DISTRICT SYSTEM AND SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS.

The appropriation for the support of schools at the present time is generous and liberal; but are we receiving a corresponding benefit with our present number of schools? For the interest of those who may be willing to investigate the subject, I will submit a few statistical facts, and allow them to draw their own conclusions. The amount of money for schooling the past year was \$978.20. Of this amount, District No. 1 had \$177.20, for which it had 23 weeks of school; District No. 2, \$116.16—17 weeks of school; District No. 3, \$69.81—about 11 weeks of school. The average number of scholars in attendance in the three schools is about 51. Average wages of the teachers, \$6.34 per week. The amount of money in the three districts, \$363.17, divided by wages per week, gives about 57 weeks. From a similar estimate in Districts No. 6 and 7, it is found that with their present means they could support one school about ten months in the year, with an average number of scholars not exceeding forty or forty-five. Parents and guardians, is not this a subject worthy of consideration and definite action? In employing teachers, when practicable, I would recommend those who have had considerable experience and a well earned reputation, for it not unfrequently happens that teachers may pass a preliminary examination very acceptably, but on assuming the responsibility of the school-room prove themselves deficient in qualifications that are indispensably necessary for a good school. Some of the teachers employed the past year have had much experience, and all of them more or less, and all have labored conscientiously. Most of them have succeeded very well, and others tolerably so, and with our present appropriations, deeper interests, and better accommodations, we hope for a brighter future.

Recapitulation showing the amount of money for schooling, how divided, length of school in weeks in each district, number of scholars in each, and number of visits by private individuals in each. Amount of money, \$978.20. District No. 1, \$177.20—weeks schooling, 23; No. scholars, 31; visits from private citizens, 17. District No. 2, \$116.16; weeks school, 17; No. scholars, 22; No. visits, 10. District No. 3, \$69.81; weeks school, 10 4-5; No. scholars resident, 8; No. visits, 11. District No. 4, \$155.70; weeks school, 18 1-2; No. scholars, 33; No. visits, 14. District No. 5, \$114.71; weeks school, 17 2-5; No. scholars, 25. District No. 6, \$184.82; weeks school about 23; No. scholars, 25; No. visits in summer, 7. District No. 7, \$159.59; weeks school, 20; No. scholars, 20; No. visits, 28.

ALLEN PLUMER, *Supt. School Committee.*

