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ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
SELECTMEN AND TREASURER
AND
Superintendent of Public Schools,
OF THE
TOWN OF LEE,
FOR THE
Year Ending March 1,
1886.

NEWMARKET, N. H.:
ADVERTISER PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT,
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TOWN OFFICERS.

Selectmen.

HORACE SCALES,
ALBERT L. COMINGS,
LEWIS I. DEMERRITT

Town Clerk.

DANIEL E. PLUMMER.

Treasurer.

JOHN CAVERNO.

Collector of Taxes.

DANIEL E. PLUMMER.

Auditors.

ISAIAH D. EDGERLY,
CHARLES H. LAYN,
W. B. TUTTLE.

Supervisors.

HOSEA B. SNELL,
BERT P. THOMPSON,
CHARLES G. DAME.

SELECTMEN'S ACCOUNT.

Detailed Statement of the Selectmen's accounts, for the year ending March 1, 1886.

Valuation of all the taxable property of the town of Lee, April 1, 1885, \$332,958 00

Whole amount of taxes assessed, 4,068 37

Appropriated as follows:—

State tax,	\$ 888 00	
County tax,	1,020 03	
School tax,	777 00	
Dog tax,	71 00	
Non-resident highway tax,	34 86	
Town tax,	977 48	
Special School District tax,	300 00	
Highway tax,		500 00
Amount of school money divided among the several districts,		930 00

• Obtained from the following sources:—

Amount assessed,	\$777 00
Literary fund,	83 41
Part of railroad tax,	69 56

Divided as follows:—

School District, No. 1,	290 21
School District, No. 2,	233 63
School District, No. 3,	60 88
School District, No. 6,	172 07
School District, No. 7,	168 67
Plains District, Newmarket,	4 54

430
828
1415

BRIDGES.

Benjamin F. Lang, plank,	\$13 39
L. I. DeMerritt, labor,	4 00
W. N. & R. Railroad, transportation,	9 13
DeMerritt & Burnham, plank,	25 30
S. W. Lane, plank,	3 58
S. W. Lane, plank,	5 09
Howard M. Glidden, damages,	20 00
Wm. F. Hall & Co., hard pine timber,	46 56
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	\$127 05

PAUPER BILLS.

J. F. Bartlett, on account of J. F. Wilson,	\$15 00
A. L. Comings, on account of Stephen Thompson,	20 72
A. E. Langmaid, on account of Gilman J. Langmaid,	12 00
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	\$47 72

BOUNTY ON WOODCHUCKS.

H. Scales,	\$6 10
A. L. Comings,	7 30
L. I. DeMerritt,	2 30
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	\$15 70

HIGHWAYS.

Joseph A. Knight, labor on highway,	\$4 20
David S. Bennett, breaking roads,	6 00
Isaac G. Sherburn, labor on highway,	6 09
John P. Haley, breaking roads,	12 20
John P. Haley, labor,	1 65
John S. Jenkins, breaking roads,	3 30
A. W. Davis, breaking roads,	5 70
P. Behan, labor,	89
Job Clay, labor,	90
J. J. Randall, breaking roads,	1 50
J. D. Babb, labor,	1 05
A. Gile, breaking roads,	2 55
J. H. Fitcomb, labor,	2 25
P. Gillam, breaking roads,	1 35
J. J. Noble, breaking roads,	13 50
James Buzzell, labor and material, (old bill),	4 50

P. Behan, labor,	1 20
Dow & Burley, posts for guide board,	3 50
C. S. Otis, breaking roads,	2 37
R. A. Thompson, breaking roads,	2 55
Joseph E. Jenkins, breaking roads,	3 00
G. W. Plumer, breaking roads,	75
Josiah Durgin, labor,	14 55
W. B. Tuttle, labor,	2 02
S. E. Demeritt, labor,	4 20
W. E. Ryan, breaking roads,	1 05
G. Y. Durgin, labor,	7 32
James Buzzell, labor on highway,	5 70
M. Olive Demeritt, labor on highway,	1 05
Daniel Smith, breaking roads,	3 00
Joseph James, heirs,	4 05

\$123 94

GENERAL EXPENSES.

L. I. DeMerritt, services as selectman,	\$40 00
Horace Scales, services as selectman,	53 75
A. L. Comings, services as selectman,	45 00
C. S. Otis, services as acting selectman,	2 00
D. E. Plummer, services as clerk,	20 00
D. E. Plummer, services as collector,	40 00
Fred P. Comings, services as school committee,	35 00
John Caverno, services as treasurer,	25 00

\$260 75

MISCELLANEOUS BILLS.

F. H. Pinkham, printing reports,	\$15 00
E. C. Eastman, blank books,	4 81
Frink & Batchelder, legal advice,	5 00
Frink & Batchelder, term fees, etc.,	16 00
Geo. W. Fernald, surveying,	3 75
G. W. Plumer,	1 00
D. E. Plummer, stationery, etc.,	2 25
A. G. Comings,	8 17
D. E. Plummer, records,	7 60

\$63 58

DAMAGE DONE BY DOGS.

G. C. Keniston, sheep killed, 1882,	\$ 3 50
G. C. Keniston, sheep killed, 1884, (65 per cent.),	3 90
G. C. Keniston, sheep killed, 1884, (65 per cent.),	5 20
Elizabeth Lane, sheep killed, 1884, (65 per cent.),	5 20
G. D. Durgin, sheep killed, 1884, (65 per cent.),	2 60
S. P. Hoitt, sheep killed, 1884, (65 per cent.),	22 75
J. E. Jenkins, sheep killed, 1884, (65 per cent.),	5 20
Israel S. Dame, sheep killed, 1884, (65 per cent.),	6 50
Mary A. Hoitt, sheep killed, 1883, (65 per cent.),	3 25
David S. Jenkins, sheep killed, 1883, (65 per cent.),	2 60
David S. Bennett, sheep killed, 1884, (65 per cent.),	2 60
Benj. T. Piper, sheep killed, 1884, (65 per cent.),	2 60
Fred B. York, sheep killed, 1884, (65 per cent.),	2 60
A. F. Hodgdon, sheep killed, 1884, (65 per cent.),	20 80
N. G. Davis, sheep killed, 1884, (65 per cent.),	5 20
Patrick Connor, sheep killed, 1884, (65 per cent.),	2 20
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	\$96 70

Gave orders on treasurer for the following damage
by dogs, 1885:—

Jefferson Sawyer, sheep killed,	\$ 6 00
Orin J. Otis, sheep killed,	5 00
Charlie E. Thompson, sheep killed,	9 00
A. Jones, sheep killed,	15 00
Laura E. Ricker, sheep injured,	10 00
Mary J. Hoitt, sheep killed,	9 00
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	\$54 00

\$150 70

Gave an order on treasurer, payable to C. H. Layn,
or order, May 1, 1886, on account of special
School District tax,

\$300 00

ABATEMENTS.

B. D. Mathes, overvaluation,	\$3 24
L. S. Fernald, overvaluation,	1 26
D. S. Randall, heirs,	2 20
Benj. G. Durgin,	1 08
Walter C. Bean,	1 08
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	\$8 86

SCHOOLS.

District No. 1, Isaac G. Sherburn,	\$290.21
District No. 2, John Cornell,	96 00
District No. 2, Benj. F. Stevens,	137 63
District No. 3, Walton Smith,	60 88
District No. 6, Howard M. Glidden,	172 07
District No. 7, Benj. F. Lang,	168 67
Plains District, Newmarket, D. E. Plummer,	4 54
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	\$930 00

 RECAPITULATION.

Bridges,	\$127 05
Pauper Bills,	47 72
Bounty,	15 70
Abatements,	8 86
Highways,	123 94
General Expenses,	260 75
Miscellaneous,	63 58
Damage by dogs,	96 70
Schools,	930 00
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	\$1,674 30

REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

Receipts.

Rec'd of Treasurer, of 1884, cash,	\$ 141 39
State of New Hampshire, Railroad tax,	152 20
Savings Bank tax,	1,019 60
Literary Fund,	86 62
Bounty on Wood- chucks,	46 20
For use of town hall,	7 50
Of Collector Plummer, list of 1883,	24 87
Of Collector Plummer, list of 1884,	709 14
Of Collector Plummer, list of 1885,	2,940 37
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	\$5,127 89

Expenditures.

Payment of orders drawn by Selectmen,	\$1,674 30
State tax,	888 00
County tax,	1,020 03
Bert P. Thompson, note and interest,	53 82
B. F. Lang, note and interest,	416 65
Eleanor J. Plummer, note and interest,	250 00
Eleanor J. Plummer, interest,	19 58
W. B. Tuttle, note and interest,	179 20
Cash on hand to balance,	626 31
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	\$5,127 89

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

ASSETS.

Israel Demeritt, note and interest,	\$257 39	
D. E. Plummer, collector's list, 1884,	3 24	
D. E. Plummer, collector's list, 1885,	828 00	
D. E. Plummer, collector's Special School tax,	300 00	
Cash in Treasury, March 1, 1886,	626 31	
		\$2,014 94

LIABILITIES.

Orders drawn for damage to sheep,	\$54 00	
Orders drawn for Special District tax,	300 00	
		\$354 00
Amount of surplus,		\$1,660 94
Due from General Government,		739 00

Settled the foregoing accounts as above stated.

JOHN CAVERNO, *Treasurer.*

HORACE SCALES,	}	<i>Selectmen</i>
ALBERT L. COMINGS,		
LEWIS I. DEMERITT,		
		<i>of</i>
		<i>Lec.</i>

We, the undersigned, Auditors of the Town of Lee, have examined the foregoing account, and find it correctly cast, with corresponding vouchers.

ISAIAH D. EDGERLY,	}	<i>Auditors.</i>
CHARLES H. LAYN.		

REPORT.
OF THE
Superintending School Committee,
FOR THE YEAR 1885.

DISTRICT NO. 1.

First Term, 11 weeks; whole number of pupils, 31; average number, 28; average daily attendance, 26; wages per month, including board, \$30.

Second Term, 13 weeks; whole number of pupils, 32; average number, 30; average daily attendance, 28; wages per month, including board, \$30.

Third Term, 12 weeks; whole number of pupils, 36; wages per month, including board, \$32. Miss Elizabeth I. Sherburne, teacher.

Miss Sherburne labored under the serious disadvantage of too many classes, but fortunately was *the* one for the place. Having been brought up in the district she had a good knowledge of the different dispositions. Combining this knowledge with a perfect willingness to work for the best welfare of those under her charge, she met with a success that must have been gratifying to all interested in the school. We found the scholars ready and willing to answer all questions, and the school quiet and orderly at all times.

DISTRICT NO. 2.

LEE HILL DIVISION.

First Term, 8 weeks; whole number of pupils, 17; average number, 16; average daily attendance, 14; wages per month, including board, \$26.

Second Term, 12.2 weeks; whole number of pupils, 18; average number, 15; average daily attendance, 11; wages per month, including board, \$26. Miss Theresa R. Rand, teacher.

Miss Rand came to the school with no knowledge of the workings of our country schools, and having had no experience as a teacher. She made many mistakes that would not have occurred but for her inexperience. The teacher worked hard and in some branches excellent advancement was made.

LEE HOOK DIVISION.

First Term, 8 weeks; whole number of pupils, 12; average number, 12; average daily attendance, 11; wages per month, including board, \$22.

Second Term, 8 weeks; whole number of pupils, 13; average number, 12; average daily attendance, 11; wages per month, including board, \$25. Miss Carrie E. Thompson, teacher.

Miss Thompson is an experienced teacher. Understanding what was necessary for a thoroughly good school she went to work at once and accomplished the end in view in a satisfactory manner. We found the school, at our several visits, orderly and the pupils showing a good understanding of the subjects under discussion.

DISTRICT NO. 3.

First Term, 10.2 weeks; whole number of pupils, 6; average number, 5; average daily attendance, 4; wages per month, including board, \$22. Miss Carrie E. H. S. Thompson, teacher.

Miss Thompson here had to surmount the difficulty of a very small school. All teachers know how hard it is to keep up an interest with only one in a class; but Miss Thompson succeeded in doing it, if we can judge from the rapid and thorough advancement of the pupils. It was a misfortune to others in the district that there was not a larger attendance.

DISTRICT NO. 6.

First Term, 8 weeks; whole number of pupils, 19; average number, 19; average daily attendance, 16; wages of teacher per month, \$26.

Second Term, 5 weeks; whole number of pupils, 14; average number, 14; average daily attendance, 12; wages per month, including board, \$26. Miss Grace B. Rand, teacher, two terms.

Third Term, 9.7 weeks; whole number of pupils, 21; average number, 17; average daily attendance, 14; wages per month, including board, \$32. John P. Sanborn, teacher.

This was Miss Rand's first attempt at school teaching. During the first term a good deal of carelessness was manifest in regard to the correct school hours, but this was corrected the second term. There were two pupils, Miss Rose Bartlett and Miss Georgie Davis, who did not miss a question during the term commencing Sept. 7 and ending Oct. 9, and were awarded prizes. amply paying them for their hard work. Miss Jessie Davis failed on but one question.

Mr. Sanborn has had a great deal of experience as a teacher and came to us well recommended. The committee failed to notify us of the close of the school, and we are accordingly unable to make a very full report, and, therefore, quote the remarks of the teacher: "The teacher and the pupils of this district labored under great disadvantages on account of the want of a *good working* room, and proper ventilation. The school house belongs to a by-gone age, and is very inadequate for the purposes for which it was built. The mixing up of pupils of so many different degrees of advancement and possibilities renders much of the teacher's work disagreeable and barren of results. The chief aim of the teacher, for the winter term, has been to teach the pupils something they could use to advantage after they leave the school room. The different temperaments of the pupils and their surroundings have been studied by the teacher with the view of teaching them something that could be put into practical use when they come upon the stage of action. If the highest degree of order has not been maintained I claim to have given as high a degree as was possible, (under the circumstances), and keep an active and industrious interest awakened in the minds of those under my charge. I claim to have succeeded in a fair degree. Most of the boys and girls have made good progress, considering the obstacles they have had to contend with."

DISTRICT NO. 7.

First Term, 10 weeks; whole number of pupils, 20; average number, 19; average daily attendance, 17; wages per month, including board, \$28.

Second Term, 12.5 weeks; whole number of pupils, 19; average number, 18; average daily attendance, 16; wages of teacher per month, \$30. Miss Helen C. Bennett, teacher.

Miss Bennett brought order out of chaos. We have never before seen as marked improvement in so short a time. At our first visit the school was disorderly and showed a decided lack of interest. At our last the "lines" were straight. The readiness and correctness with which all questions were answered reflected great credit on teacher and pupils. Miss Bennett as a teacher ranks A 1.

 ROLL OF HONOR.

One First term, Anna B. Chesley, Mary E. Comings, Fannie M. Lane, Artha M. Sherburne, Eda B. Snell, Ella A. Snell, George F. King, Frank C. Langmaid, Seth W. Sherburne, Sadie E. Ryan, Nellie F. Wiggin, Idabel Thompson, Nellie Glidden, Nathalie O. York, Otis S. Smith, Arthur J. Thompson, Guy Durell, Walter York, Grace L. Jenkins, Bert S. Jenkins, Carrie Bartlett, Georgie Davis, Blanche M. Glidden, Joseph B. Keniston, Sadie McLerroy, Granville B. Thompson, C. Hugh Tuttle, Fred H. Wiggin, Bernice Lang, Ada F. Elison.

Two Second term, Helen M. Buzzell, Maurice Buzzell, Mabeth I. Chesley, Amanda L. Lane, Carrie G. Hill, Arthur Bennett, Eddie A. Wiggin, Harold E. York, Rose Bartlett, Bernice Davis, Jessie Davis, Harry Keniston, Flora B. Kenerson, Bertha E. Lang, George Lang, George D. Smith, Willys P. Tuttle.

Three Third term, Herbert Keniston.

Children reported, between the ages of five and fifteen, not attending any school, District No. 2, two; No. 3, two; No. 7, three.

Even the best workmen cannot do a first-class piece of work without good tools. It is the same with the schools. We cannot expect a first-class school until better buildings are supplied, and furnished with the necessary tools to work with, such as globes, maps, blackboards, &c. What can a teacher hope to accomplish in a school room without a blackboard? And yet several of our

school houses have none, or one not fit for use. We have had six schools in town during the past year; and of school property only one school house fit for the purpose, one globe, and two Webster's Dictionaries; not much to work with or much hope for good results until the people strike at the root of the matter and give the pupils and teachers a chance. More effort should be used for advancement. No one can become a good scholar that cannot read understandingly. The effort seems to be to rush ahead into the first class without regard for fitness. There can be no good reading in any book where the scholar has to stop to spell the words, or have them pronounced to him, while he does not understand the meaning of them. If parents would encourage their children to read aloud to them at home, it would serve to make them better readers, and also to cultivate a taste for reading which will be a great benefit to them. Thoroughness in reading has received more attention in District No. 1 this year. We should be glad to see more of it. Spelling is another branch that is being neglected in our schools. There are but few really good spellers among the school children at present. We would recommend more care in this regard, and for the first class the use of blanks for written spelling. We regret that more care has not been taken in regard to composition and declamations. The importance of these exercises in forming habits of correct writing and speaking, and in teaching the pupil to express ideas correctly and confidently, cannot be overestimated, and we would urge greater care with these branches in the future. It is the opinion of your committee that Arithmetic could be taught to better advantage if more practical work was done outside of the text books. Teachers are quite liable to give drill only on examples found in the text book, and scholars to understand only these, while many of the most important, practical examples are never found there. This is certainly a fault of the text books; but none that we have examined corrects that fault, and until they do the task will devolve upon the teacher; and ought not to be neglected.

The question of schools is the greatest question of the times, and one that vitally concerns us all. The town system of schools which was adopted by the last legislature seems to be misunderstood by many of our citizens. Its purpose is to equalize the educational advantages, as far as is possible, of all the children in town. The fundamental principals of a democratic government are equality and union. The district system is anti-democratic.

It gave to some children 36 weeks of school per year, to others only ten. By uniting all districts of the town into one, and establishing schools in such localities as will best accommodate the scholars, only as many schools as their welfare demands, we should avoid many of the unpleasant circumstances which prevent the usefulness of many of our schools. The less schools a town like this can get along with and give a good chance of education to all of the children, the better for the town. For instance, every extra school that we have will necessitate the building of another house, and every one that can be abolished will serve to lengthen out the remaining schools. A school of thirty or forty scholars is much more interesting than one of five or ten, and will cost but little more to run it.

It would be well if some of the interest manifested recently in school matters would extend to an occasional visit to the schools. The record of 202 visits to our schools show the names of but 12 parents. It is the duty of parents and all interested in the schools to visit them at least once in every term. It helps stimulate the children to action. The complaint that the children are getting tired of going to school would not be so often heard if parents and friends took more pains to show an interest in them. Is it any wonder that children fail to see the vital importance of their school life when those whom they are taught to respect show so little interest in it?

F. P. COMINGS.

Supt. of Schools.

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