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1875

REPORTS

OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

AND BOARD OF AUDITORS,

OF THE

TOWN OF COLEBROOK, N. H.,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

MARCH 1, 1875

COLEBROOK:

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF "THE NORTHERN SENTINEL."
1875.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Colebrook, in Annual Meeting, assembled, March 9, 1875:

For the third successive year, it becomes my duty to give you a brief account of my doings, for the year ending March 1, 1875, and of the condition of your schools.

I have examined and given certificates to twenty-one different teachers, who have taught the twenty-nine schools held in the town during the past year, and made sixty-two visits. The supervision of these schools is not an easy task under any circumstances; but, having acquired a general knowledge of the majority of scholars and teachers, it has been much easier, the past year, than it was three years ago, when both teachers and scholars were strangers to me.

I propose to make a few plain suggestions, and if any of you think it means *you*, all I ask is, that you divest yourselves of all prejudice, and give the matter ten minutes' calm, impartial consideration,—and then, and not till then, act according to your honest convictions thus acquired. During the three years last past, there has been a gradual, but marked improvement in teachers, teaching, and taught; but still, the schools are not yet what they ought to be, nor what it is hoped they soon will be. Various causes have contributed to the backwardness of the schools, and most prominent among them are superficial teachers, superficial teaching, and, as a natural consequence, superficial scholars,—which have been the bane of our schools for a long time. The hardest obstacle to overcome in remedying these defects, is the parents. In urging, as I have constantly done, upon the teachers the duty and necessity of a thorough course of instruction in every branch of study pursued, I have been met with the reply from nearly all the experienced teachers, "We know it is right, but it is not popular, and the parents will not be satisfied with it." There is too much truth in this. Many parents think it a great point gained, to get their children into the Fourth or Fifth Reader class, when they are not qualified to read in the Third; and if the teacher, in the conscientious discharge of duty, puts them back into books in

which they can make any real progress, the mother immediately raises the cry, "The teacher either don't know any thing, or else she is determined that my darling Johnny and Susie shan't learn any thing." Teachers are but human, and have no desire to brave the wrath of an angry mother, and thus it often happens that scholars pass on, and never make decent readers. It is not unfrequent to find scholars cyphering half way through Greenleaf's Arithmetic, who cannot explain the rule for Addition, or tell why they begin at the right hand to add. I am happy to say that a reformation in this respect has been started, and the tendency is now in the right direction.

DISTRICT NUMBER ONE.

In this district, three separate schools have been kept both Summer and Winter, which, for sake of distinction, may be termed the Primary, Intermediate and Upper. They constitute a divided, rather than a graded school, yet, in making the division, they are graded as far as can well be done, consistently with assigning the proper number to each school. The action of the district, last Spring, in providing a third school-room, has supplied a much needed want in the district.

Primary—Summer term of nine weeks. by Miss Addie Hardy, who returns the names of thirty-four scholars from four to seven years of age. Miss Hardy is quite a motherly young lady, and did what she could; but had she succeeded in restraining the restlessness of her charges more than she did, it would have been better for them. If these small children derive any benefit from being sent to school, it is in acquiring that mental and physical discipline which will enable them to sit still and keep quiet. This discipline, strictly enforced for a reasonable time each day, would prove a great benefit, as laying a foundation for future mental cultivation,—and in this respect Miss Hardy in some measure let her kindness of heart overcome her better judgment.

Winter term, of nine and one-half weeks, by Milo R. Blodgett. This term was not only a failure, but the money expended was worse than thrown away. He returns twenty-seven names, attending ten days or more,—being substantially the same children that attended the Summer term. No attempt whatever was made to preserve any thing like order in the school-room, the teacher being even more

childish than the children; and the deleterious habits acquired by these children will not be overcome without pain to them, and increased burdens to future teachers.

Intermediate—Summer term, of nine weeks, by Miss Angeline Lovering. Fourteen male, and twenty female scholars. Miss Lovering's well known character as a diligent, hard-working and successful teacher, needs no comment. The school, as a whole, made a commendable improvement, and if there were any scholars that did not, the fault lies with them, and not with the teacher.

Winter term, of nine and one-half weeks, by Miss Theresa Q. Tibbetts. Seventeen male, and twenty-four female scholars. Miss Tibbetts has a good faculty of imparting instruction to those who are eager to learn, but failed in keeping that order which is absolutely necessary to mental acquirements by the pupils; and the result was hard work for herself, without corresponding benefit to the pupils. More execution, and less scolding and threatening, would have been a decided improvement.

Upper School—Summer term, of nine weeks, by Miss S. Melinda Aldrich. Twelve male, and nineteen female scholars. Everybody knows Miss Aldrich as a teacher. She has a way of her own, which nobody else could pattern after with success. If criticism were permissible, I should say she teaches too much, and does not leave enough for the reasoning faculties, resulting in a superficial knowledge of the subject by the pupil.

Winter term, of nine and one-half weeks, by Mr. Charles E. Moses. Twenty-eight male, and fifteen female scholars. The winter previous, Mr. Moses took the school in the middle of the term, and, by a quick transformation, brought order out of chaos and confusion. This winter, fearing that the extraordinary measures, then necessary, were too severe, he leaned unconsciously the other way, and the school was too noisy. Most of the scholars had obtained more or less mental discipline, and made very good progress. A few would make little or no progress under any teacher whatever.

DISTRICT NUMBER TWO.

Summer term, of eight weeks, by Miss Nettie J. Bean. Two male, and ten female scholars. The school was visited at the commencement, and appeared well; but as it closed without any knowl-

edge on my part, and the teacher made no "remarks" in her register. I have no means of judging of the progress of the school, except from the well known character of Miss Bean as a good teacher.

Winter term, of eight weeks, by Webster E. Drew. Six male, and twelve female scholars. This was Mr. Drew's third attempt at teaching, and both teacher and scholars did fully as well as could be expected under the circumstances. The school-house was, last year, reported unfit for its purpose, and it is no better now. When it is remembered that if the majority of the district neglect or refuse to build or repair a school-house when necessary, the Selectmen of the town may do it at the expense of the district, on petition of three voters in the district, it shows a lack of parental interest in the welfare of their children, that is far from commendable.

DISTRICT NUMBER THREE.

Summer term, of eight weeks, by Miss Hannah D. Pratt, three weeks, and by Miss Flora E. Marshall, five weeks. Seven male, and ten female scholars. Register returned by Miss Marshall. The scholars are mostly quite young,—all but one being under ten years of age, and that one attending less than half the term,—but the material is there for a good school a few years hence, and, under the instruction of such teachers, could not fail to make good improvement.

Winter term, of eight weeks, by Miss Myra B. Capron. Seven male, and nine female scholars. Two of the largest boys, both old enough to be ashamed of themselves, did all they could to make a disturbance in the school, but only succeeded so far as to be a perpetual annoyance to the teacher. They are well known in the district, and their names are withheld in the hope that they will do better in the future. Sickness interfered very much with the regular attendance, a prevailing epidemic keeping many at home a portion of the time; but those that attended regularly made good improvement.

DISTRICT NUMBER FOUR.

Summer term, of ten weeks, by Miss Carrie J. Wiggin. Six male, and six female scholars. Miss Wiggin is a good teacher, but with the irregular attendance which her register shows, no teacher can make the school a success. It is out of the question to expect

any good degree of advancement to be made by scholars, when their days of absence exceed or nearly equal their days of attendance, as was the case of nearly half of the scholars in this school; and the sooner the parents realize this fact, the better it will be for their children.

Winter term, of ten weeks, by Miss Nettie J. Bean. Nine male, and eight female scholars. This school contains some good scholars, and many backward ones, considering the number attending. The attendance was more regular than in the summer, but not so much so as to make a forward school. Irregular attendance, and a disposition among parents to find fault with the teacher, will continue to make it a backward school so long as it is persisted in.

DISTRICT NUMBER FIVE.

Summer term, of eight weeks,—eight male, and seven female scholars; and Winter term, of twelve weeks,—ten male, and seven female scholars, by Miss Emma F. Noyes. Here, too, irregular attendance, especially during the Winter term, is a great hindrance to the progress of the school. The school is backward, considering the age of the scholars, but during the Summer term made good progress, and appeared well when visited in the second week of the Winter term. During the entire closing week of the Winter term, the weather laid an embargo on all traveling to and from the district. The Prudential Committee could not get to me to notify me of the close of the school, nor could I have gotten to the school, if he had; consequently, the school was not visited at the close of the Winter term, as it otherwise would have been; but, from my knowledge of both school and teacher, I can have no doubt but that as good progress was made as could have been expected, with the irregular attendance which appears in the register. In deportment, the school will compare favorably with other districts in town.

DISTRICT NUMBER SIX.

Summer term, of eight weeks, by Miss Sally A. Marshall. Eleven male, and seven female scholars.

Winter term, of twelve weeks, by Miss Eliza S. Marshall. Eleven male, and eleven female scholars. Neither of these teachers need any commendation. Their reputation is deserved. For the

last three years it has been the object of this district to employ the best thorough teachers, and the result is very manifest. Here is a class of young ladies in advance of any other in town, outside of the Village Upper School.

DISTRICT NUMBER SEVEN.

Summer term, of ten weeks,—fourteen male, and sixteen female scholars; Fall term, of eight weeks,—twelve male, and eleven female scholars; and Winter term, of eight weeks,—twenty-one male, and eleven female scholars, all by Miss Alma L. Little. This district has heretofore borne the too much deserved reputation of having an unruly school, but under Miss Little's instruction during the past year, it has been the most quiet and orderly school in town. The school is backward, but, with a few years' instruction, with similar teachers and like good order, there is no reason why it should not equal any school in town; and with equal improvement with the past year, it certainly will.

DISTRICT NUMBER EIGHT.

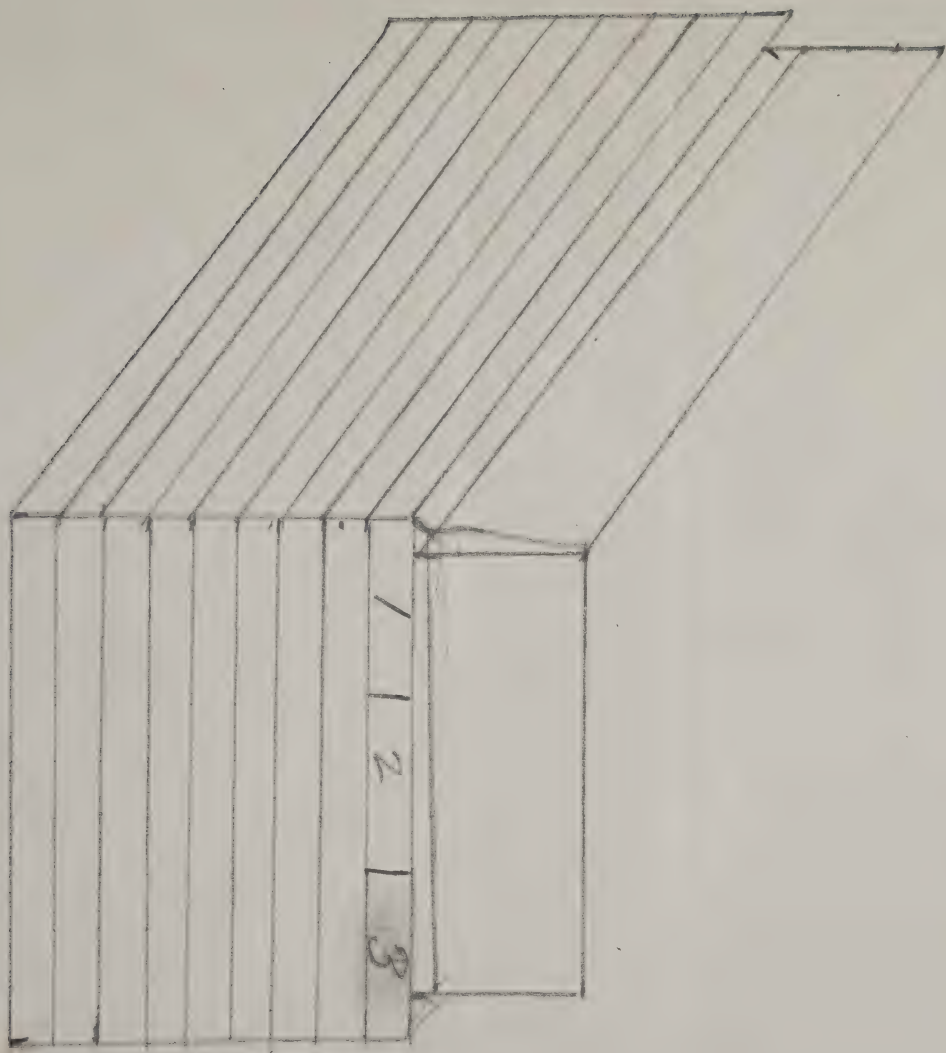
Summer term, of twelve weeks, by Miss Ruth J. Hammond. Three male, and six female scholars. This was Miss Hammond's first attempt at teaching. She was young, but, by an exercise of discretion beyond her years, she made the school a success, notwithstanding she entered the school with a strong prejudice against her, and amid many predictions that she would fail.

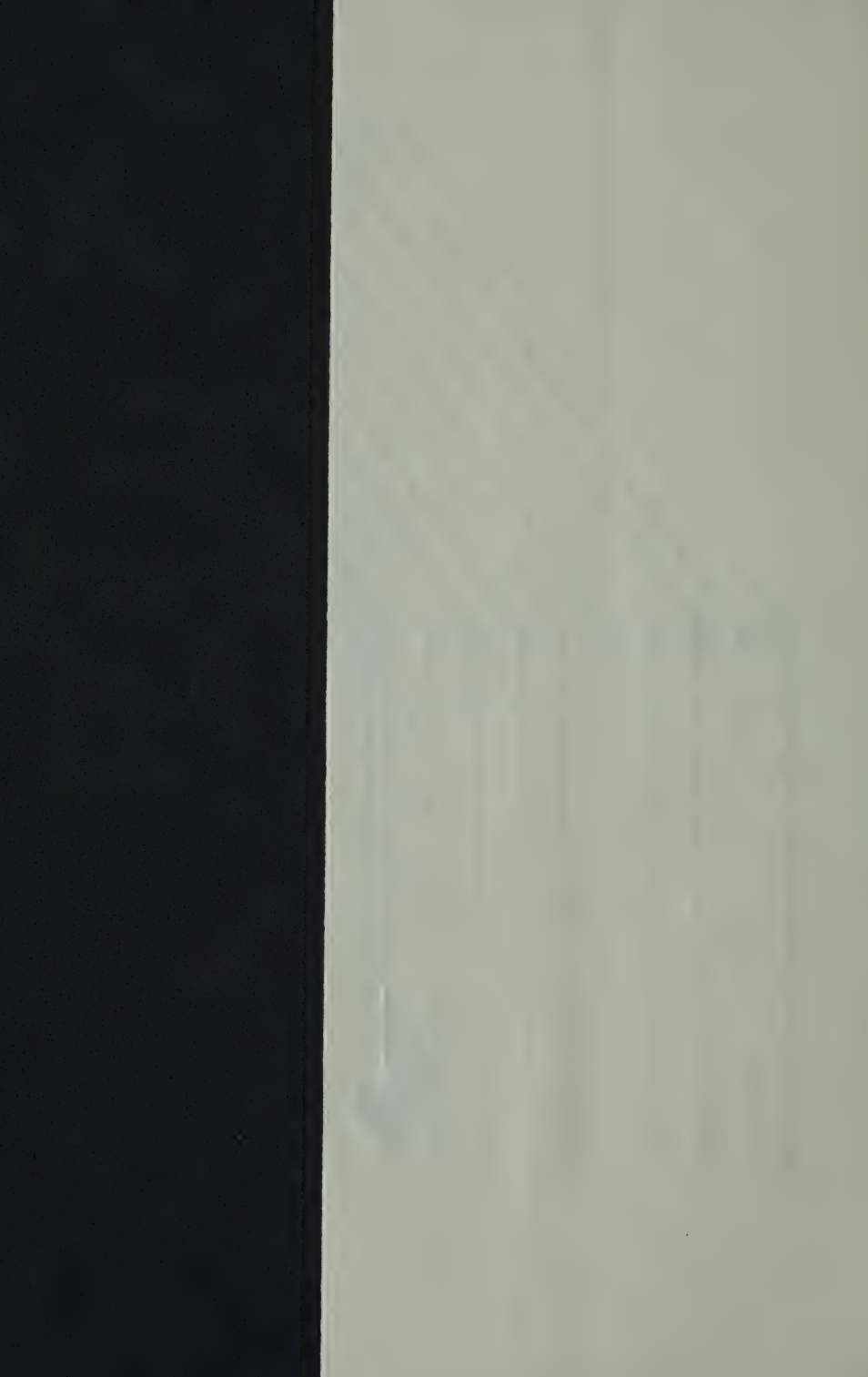
Winter term, of twelve weeks, by Miss Hittie L. Tibbetts. Four male, and five female scholars. It was fortunate for the schools in this district that it was a dry season, as the house affords no protection against the rain.

DISTRICT NUMBER NINE.

Summer term, of eight weeks, by Miss Flora S. Marshall. Seven male, and six female scholars.

Winter term, of nine weeks, by Miss Lillie F. Barker. Ten male, and six female scholars. This school is another instance of the benefit of thorough teaching of the principles in the various branches pursued, and, as a whole, will not fall behind any other district in town. The scholars, having been taught to cultivate their





reasoning faculties as well as their memory, and realizing the necessity of close application, could not fail to make good progress under the instruction of these able and thorough teachers.

DISTRICT NUMBER TEN.

Summer term, of eight weeks, by Miss Arabell Harriman. Seven male, and eight female scholars. With two exceptions, the scholars were small, and their studies confined to the elementary branches; but among these small scholars are some minds that will, ere long, take the advanced situation now occupied by the older ones. The attendance was good, four scholars not being at any time absent in school hours, and good advancement was made.

Winter term, of ten weeks, by Miss Carrie J. Wiggin. Nine male, and six female scholars. The teacher speaks well of the school, but I had little opportunity to judge of the progress made, as at my visit at the close (it being a blustering day) but one scholar was present. The register shows an average attendance of nine out of the fifteen.

DISTRICT NUMBER ELEVEN.

Summer term, of eight weeks, by Mrs. Jennie P. Alls. Eight male, and nine female scholars. This was Mrs. Alls' first attempt at teaching, and she succeeded well. The scholars are small, but two being over ten, and a united parental interest is the thing most needed in this district.

Winter term, of fourteen weeks, by Miss Mary P. Watson. Nine male, and six female scholars. Miss Watson is an experienced teacher, from Manchester, and has introduced a system of order and regularity in the school-room, that has hitherto been wanting. The school is still progressing, and in the seven weeks returned, the register shows an irregular attendance, the average being less than ten. This irregularity embraces nearly half the scholars, and those scholars need not expect to make any great progress, for it is not possible. Those who attend regularly are making remarkable progress, especially the class in Grammar and the Geography classes.

DISTRICT NUMBER TWELVE.

Summer term, of ten weeks, by Miss Ella Stevens. One male, and five female scholars. This was Miss Stevens' first school, and

she returns an average attendance of five, with this remark: "I had a very pleasant school, with the exception of one scholar, who came to make disturbance in the school, but after a thorough trial, getting defeated, she gave it up and left the school." This exception was not present at either of my visits, and the school appeared well.

Winter term, of ten weeks, by Miss S. Melinda Aldrich. Five male, and eight female scholars, with a reported average attendance of nine and one-fourth. Miss Aldrich is so well known, as a teacher, that further comment would be superfluous.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ALBERT BARKER, School Committee..

REPORT OF TOWN LIQUOR AGENT.

The Agent for the purchase and sale of liquors for the town of Colebrook, for the year ending March 1, 1875, submits the following report:

Liquors and casks on hand March 27, 1875,	\$100 65
Received for liquors sold,	566 10
Total,	\$666 75
Paid for liquors and casks,	\$437 07
Paid for freight,	11 43
Paid for books, measures, etc.,	99
Agent's salary,	50 00
Total profit,	167 26
	\$666 75

IRA QUIMBY, Agent.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

To the Town of Colebrook:

Your Auditors make the following report of the affairs of the Town for the year ending March 1, 1875:

Cash on hand March 11, 1874,	\$654 61
Cash of Robert Gathercole, Collector of 1873,	1,627 14
Cash of William H. Mulliken, Collector of 1874,	10,851 00
Bear bounty from the State,	8 00
County pauper claims,	47 61
Savings bank tax,	36 86
Literary fund,	164 00
Use of Town House,	74 00
Received of Liquor Agent,	443 29
Total receipts,	\$13,906 51

There has been paid out as follows:

SCHOOL MONEY.

<i>District.</i>	<i>Prudential Committee.</i>	<i>School tax.</i>	<i>School fund.</i>
1.	Freeman P. Covell.	\$510 60	\$16 73
2.	James L. Loomis.	94 80	16 73
3.	Samuel Pratt.	84 00	16 73
4.	Isaac Willey.	84 00	16 73
5.	Allen H. Forbes.	83 30	16 73
6.	John Brackett.	102 90	16 73
7.	Hiram B. Gould.	200 10	16 73
8.	Alvin W. Arlin.	70 50	16 73
9.	Samuel T. Noyes.	108 30	16 73
10.	Albert I. Bean.	86 70	16 73
11.	Charles Tucker.	86 70	16 73
12.	William McKinnon.	67 80	16 73
Total,		\$1,578 70	\$200 86

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

Jordan & Lovering, Parsons street bridge,	\$179 00
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Augustus Osgood, stone abutment on the same,	250 00
F. B. Crawford, cedar for watercourse,	7 50
James Spreadbury, bridge,	49 00
Henry W. Woodrow, labor on highway,	58 47
Lewis A. Lovering, grading the Sweatt hill,	242 50
Milton Harriman, labor on highway,	12 00
James L. Loomis, labor on highway,	51 25
Moses B. Chamberlain, labor on highway,	17 57
Ira Young, plank and labor on highway,	28 77
Augustus Osgood, bridge on Parsons street,	328 20
Alvin A. Lovering, labor on highway,	7 50
George Fairman, labor on highway,	86 75
James S. Bumford, labor on highway,	22 00
Joseph E. Lombard, making the Hicks road,	25 00
Joseph Covell, labor on highway,	6 50
Augustus Osgood, blasting rocks,	1 00
John Jordan, repairing bridge,	17 50
George L. Mulliken, building watercourse,	5 00
Richard Henson, repairing highway,	5 00
Henry Gould, building watercourse,	4 50
Barzilla Fellows, making highway,	30 00
Spencer & Rich, lumber for highway,	14 79
Milton Harriman, labor on highway,	3 00
Ira Young, plank for highway,	12 78
Seth H. Grapes, labor on highway,	14 10
Alba Corbett, labor on highway,	8 00
Edwin R. Cilley, repairing bridge,	7 50
David T. Noyes, labor on highway,	7 00
Hazen Bedel, plank for highway,	56 63
Francis Sweatt, labor on highway,	5 00
Hiram E. Cummings, labor on highway,	4 00
John S. Capen, labor on highway,	5 50
Ezra Moses, labor on highway,	2 00
Levi Hicks, labor on highway,	10 25
Joseph E. Lombard, lumber and labor on highway,	18 91
Simeon Cross, plank for bridge,	2 00

Total,

\$1,577 47

Amount of money paid to Selectmen of highway tax assessed in labor,	346 88
Paid of this money as follows :	
Orsamus Frizzle, highway district No. 16,	\$50 20
Addison Hibbard, highway district No. 17,	39 90
Joseph Y. Covell, highway district No. 18,	25 00
Hiram E. Cummings, highway district No. 20,	23 00
Fraucis Sweatt, highway district No. 21	34 28
Dexter A. Jordan, highway district No. 3,	20 00
Charles Tucker, highway district No. 3,	68 00
Charles L. Mulliken, highway district No. 8,	49 13
John Gould, highway district No. 11,	37 00
Amount remaining in Selectmen's hands.	37
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Total,	\$346 88

PAUPERS.

Paid for support of Town Paupers :	
John R. Storey, for Mrs. Soule,	\$11 00
Amos W. Drew, for Mrs. Soule,	16 62
Andrew Grover, for Mrs. Soule,	13 00
Warren Covell, for Jane Covell,	78 00
Ceroline B. Chase and family,	15 00
Sarah Pilbro, for Mrs. Collins,	5 00
Mary Bennett, for Mrs. Collins,	5 00
Edwin R. Cilley, for Polly Cree,	52 00
James M. Hartwell, for Collins and Grover,	6 75
Wentworth & Capen, goods for Grover and Collins,	97 43
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Total,	\$299 80
Paid for support of County Paupers :	
Wentworth & Capen, for Michael Little,	\$31 36
Joseph E. Lombard, for Michael Little,	6 25
Jesse Forristall, rent for Michael Little,	10 00
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Total,	\$47 61

MISCELLANEOUS.

Ira Quimby, liquor bill and freight,	\$326 68
Aldrich & Shurtleff, costs on the Hollow road,	53 27
James Titus, bounty on bear,	4 00
Albert Barker & Co., printing,	10 75
F. P. Covell, school-house tax, District No. 1,	100 00
Hiram Titus, damage to wagon,	3 00
Hiram Titus, road damage,	5 00
Joseph E. Lombard, road damage,	176 00
Phebe Collins, road damage,	25 00
R. C. Marshall, damage to wagon,	10 00
Samuel Pratt, school-house tax, District No. 2,	16 86
C. J. Marshall, cleaning Town House,	2 00
E. F. Bailey, damage to gig,	6 05
S. S. Merrill, road damage and costs,	90 33
Robert Gathercole, abatements in '73,	62 07
M. S. Marshall, ink,	15
J. H. Dudley, legal services three years,	171 25
C. C. Norris, certificate of births and deaths,	3 00
Ira Quimby, measures, etc.,	99
Ira Quimby, serving road notices,	8 52
B. W. Sanborn, blanks, etc.,	11 75
William H. Mulliken, abatements in '74,	34 18
Albert Barker & Co., printing town reports,	83 00

Total,	\$1,153 85

INDEBTEDNESS PAID.

Paid on notes and interest:	
Milton Harvey, one year's interest,	\$627 50
Stephen Morrison, one year's interest,	300 00
Gilman Corser, on note and interest,	165 00
Samuel Pratt, interest on note,	6 00
Colebrook Academy, interest on notes,	72 00
Thomas W. Atherton, note and interest,	720 21

Total,	\$1,890 71

SALARIES.

Paid Town officers:

Myrick S. Marshall, for services as Town Clerk,	\$35 00
Hezekiah B. Parsons, for services as Town Clerk,	15 00
Albert Barker, for services as Superintending School Committee,	75 00
Hazen Bedel, for services as Treasurer,	30 00
Joseph E. Lombard, for services as Selectman,	76 00
Charles Tucker, for services as Selectman,	60 00
John S. Capen, for services as Selectman,	59 00
Ira Quimby, for services as Town Agent,	50 00
William H. Mulliken, for services as Collector,	94 00

Total, \$494 00

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS.

Total amount of money received,	\$13,906 51
Amount of money paid out:	
School money,	\$1,779 56
Highways and bridges,	1,577 47
Town Paupers,	299 80
County paupers,	47 61
Miscellaneous expenses,	1,253 85
Notes and interest,	1,190 71
Town officers,	494 00
State tax,	1,396 00
County tax,	3,777 05
Cash on hand,	1,490 46
Total,	\$13,906 51

INDEBTEDNESS.

Amount of debts outstanding against the Town of Colebrook,
March 1, 1875:

March 1, 1869. Colebrook Academy, one note,	\$1,000 00
Nov. 1, 1869. Samuel Pratt, one note and interest,	101 50

March 1, 1870. Colebrook Academy, one note,	200 00
August 1, 1870. Milton Harvey, one note,	5,500 00
August 18, 1871. Milton Harvey, one note and interest,	4,509 00
August 19, 1871. Stephen Morrison, one note and interest,	2,005 50
September 1, 1871. Gilman Corser, one note,	350 00
September 1, 1871. Jeremiah Young, one note,	2,000 00
Total,	<u>\$16,666 00</u>

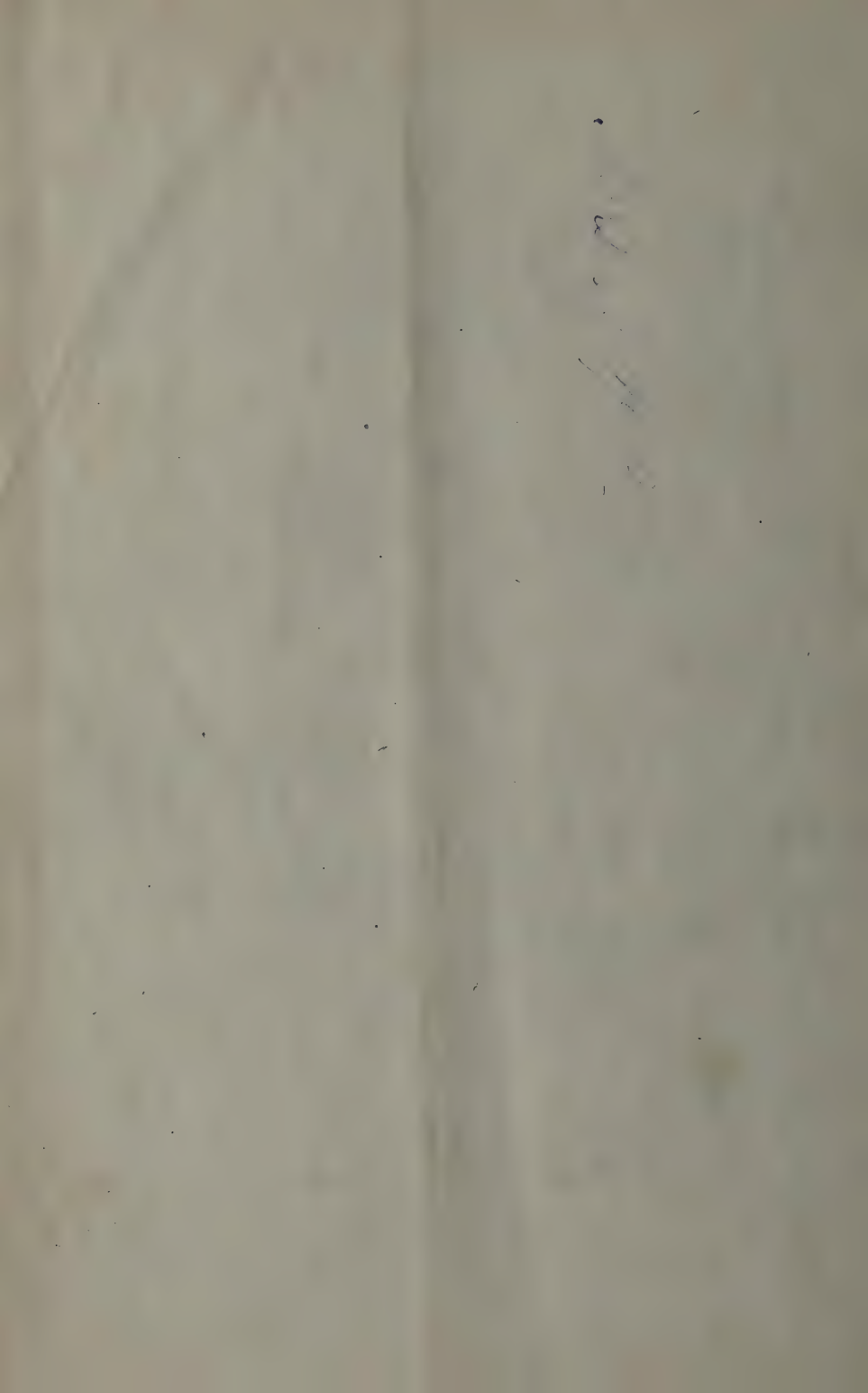
ASSETS.

Cash on hand,	\$1,490 46
Cash in hands of Collector of '74,	1,347 32
	<u>\$2,837 78</u>

Indebtedness, less assets,	\$13,828 22
Indebtedness March 1, 1874,	15,454 08
Indebtedness March 1, 1875,	13,828 22
Decrease in debt for 1874,	1,625 76

We find the accounts of the several Town officers correctly cast and properly vouched.

S. K. REMICK, }
 J. H. DUDLEY, } Auditors.
 J. W. COOPER, }



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