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ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

TOWN OFFICERS

OF THE

TOWN OF FRANCESTOWN,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1ST, 1876.

NASHUA, N. H.:

MOORE & LANGLEY, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS.
1876

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ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT.

The subscribers, accountants for the town of Francestown for the year ending March 1, 1876, report as follows:—

STATEMENT.

Whole amount of taxes committed to the Collector for the year 1875, as per Selectmen's warrant, is \$7,781 59

Appropriated as follows:—

State tax,	\$1,448 00	
County tax,	745 75	
Town tax,	5,587 84	
		\$7,781 59

Amount received by the Collector from the State, as follows:—

Savings Bank tax,	\$856 08	
Railroad tax,	83 86	
Literary fund,	78 69	
Insurance tax,	26 25	
		\$1,044 88

The Treasurer of the town charges himself with the following amounts:—

Balance in treasury last year,	\$1,466 58	
Cash received, deduction on note of L. Spalding,	4 00	
Cash received of P. L. Clark, Collector,	6,416 02	
		\$7,886 60

The Treasurer of the town credits himself with the following disbursements, ordered by the Selectmen, to wit:

FOR SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS.

District No. 1,	\$126 48
" 3,	482 29
" 4,	208 53
" 5,	245 65
" 6,	127 06

Amount carried forward, \$1,190 01

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>		\$1,190 01
District No. 7,		15 00
" 8,		85 52
" 10,		51 17
" 12,		40 00
		<hr/>
		\$1,381 70
Geo. D. Epps, Supt. School Committee,		60 00
		<hr/>
		\$1,441 70

EXTRA REPAIRS ON HIGHWAYS.

Paid Thos. H. Foote for bridge plank,		\$8 60
James Whitfield, for bridge plank, stringers, &c.,		18 50
Wm. H. Farnum, for repairing bridge,		36 46
Geo. A. Dunklee, for bridge plank and stringers,		78 22
Jona. Danforth, for bridge plank and stringers,		44 15
Wm. H. Hopkins, for repairs on Green- field road,		62 96
Thos. E. Fisher, for repairs on highway,		4 55
Otis N. Holt, " " "		7 75
Charles E. Nutting, " " "		4 75
H. F. Dinsmore, for repairs on bridge, &c.,		8 55
Reuben A. Dutton, for gravel on Green- field road,		3 00
P. L. Clark, for bridge stringers,		4 00
		<hr/>
		\$281 49

BREAKING ROADS.

Paid David Butterfield,		\$14 60
John M. Morse,		5 85
Richard C. Woodward,		19 10
Abner B. Woodward,		14 25
S. G. Wood,		22 00
Thomas Ordway,		13 94
Nathaniel Whitfield,		8 10
John M. Morse,		28 71
Ephraim Fuller,		6 60
Thos. E. Fisher,		7 20
K. W. Emerson,		21 45
S. L. Felch,		7 50
Moses B. Fisher,		18 51
Thos. Averill,		17 77
Leonard Spaulding,		2 70
		<hr/>

Amount carried forward, \$208 28

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$208 28
Paid B. F. Dutton,	3 28
A. W. Wood,	6 50
P. M. Foote,	7 65
Samuel Lolley,	3 75
E. G. Kemp,	11 75
E. T. Blanchard,	1 50
Geo. A. Shattuck,	6 60
Otis N. Holt,	1 52
Levi Kidder,	22 22
Horace F. Dinsmoor,	16 05
Hiram P. Clark,	8 15
S. W. Eaton,	11 40
Wm. H. Hopkins,	18 95
Wm. R. Sawyer,	2 50
Geo. Kingsbury,	3 30
Horace Belcher,	16 75
John G. Proctor,	5 00
J. W. Cooper,	14 80
Jesse Woodbury,	13 15
Amos S. Whittemore,	8 20
S. G. Wood,	0 60
Samuel M. Wilson,	5 05
Geo. H. Richardson,	25 65
Henry Davis,	14 51
John Weston,	7 50
James F. Dean,	3 07
Benj. O. Pettee,	14 91
N. D. Dean,	15 75
Reuben A. Dutton,	1 50
Garvin S. Sleeper,	43 50
David Butterfield,	9 92
Samuel E. Stevens,	7 65
Charles P. Bryant,	18 68
	<hr/>
	\$558 69

SUPPORT OF POOR OFF THE FARM.

Paid A. A. Gilbert, for support of Wm. Gilbert and wife,	\$39 00
Daniel George, for support of Joseph George,	37 00
H. Patch, for money paid Joseph George,	26 50
Charles E. Nutting, for support of transient persons,	13 75
	<hr/>
	\$116 25

MISCELLANEOUS.

Paid Wadleigh & Wallace, legal services in Soap Stone & Ranger case,	\$115 00
Wm. A. Lord, sheep damage,	2 80
K. W. Emerson, " "	6 30
Thos. E. Fisher, " "	2 10
L. F. Atwood, interest on note,	54 00
Chas. P. Bryant, sheep damage,	2 80
David Manahan, " "	17 50
G. C. Preston, part payment of M. J. Boynton's note,	650 00
Wm. H. Farnum, sheep damage,	2 80
Harvey M. Whiting, " "	2 80
S. M. Dinsmoor, recording deaths and births,	3 50
Wm. Patch, interest on note,	30 00
Wm. H. Farnum, for printing town reports,	33 00
John P. Richardson, sheep damage,	3 50
P. L. Clark, account over assess- ment on Soap Stone Co. in 1874,	14 66
Geo. E. Downs, for town library,	100 00
A. W. Wood, working out Soap-stone Co.'s highway tax,	20 00
Wm. H. Hopkins, working out Soap- stone Co.'s tax,	45 30
Henry Davis, cow on Town Farm,	50 00
H. M. Manahan, damage awarded by referees,	116 66
Hiram Patch, costs in case Manahan vs. Town,	85 00
H. M. Manahan, witness fees in case,	12 73
Samuel W. Eaton, building road,	25 50
Geo. D. Epps, interest on "Woodbury Fund,"	60 00
Geo. F. Pettee, attendance and cash paid on Soap-stone case,	17 63
John P. Richardson, interest on note,	12 00
Levi B. Bradford, land damage on account of highway,	60 00
Mary C. Willard, interest on note,	12 00
A. B. Woodward, witness fees in Soap- stone and Ranger cases,	13 67
Danl. Bixby, heirs, land damage on account of highway,	40 00
Hiram Patch, balance of State tax,	493 12
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	<hr/> \$2,014 37

<i>Amount carried forward,</i>		\$2,014 37
Paid Amasa Downes, cleaning and repairing Library-room,		1 86
Lucy Spaulding, interest on note,		60 00
John Weston, interest on notes,		15 00
Geo. A. Duncklee, medical examination of Leonard Morse,		15 50
Saml. E. Stevens, digging graves, &c.,		46 00
Isaac L. Heath, legal services in Manahan case,		14 00
Geo. F. Pettee, running line between Francestown and Weare,		0 75
Selectmen of Francestown, examining and reappraising real estate of said town,		115 00
Mark Balch, stationery, postage, &c.,		2 00
Hiram Patch, books, stationery and expenses on town business,		10 00
		<hr/> \$2,294 48

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Hiram Patch, services as Selectman and Overseer of Poor,		\$90 00
Geo. A. Duncklee, services as Selectman and Overseer of Poor,		80 00
Sam'l E. Stevens, services as Selectman and Overseer of Poor,		73 00
Mark Balch, services as Town Treas'r,		20 00
Mark Balch, services as Town Clerk,		22 00
P. L. Clark, services as Coll. of Taxes,		77 49
Geo. D. Epps and Jesse P. Woodbury, accountants,		6 00
		<hr/> \$368 49
Whole amount of receipts,		\$7,886 60
“ “ disbursements,		5,061 10
		<hr/> \$2,825 50

STATEMENT.

Amount of notes against the town, with interest to March 1, 1876,		\$14,819 62
Balance in treasury,		\$2,825 50
“ Collector's hands,		2,526 09
		<hr/> \$5,351 59
Leaving the town in debt,		<hr/> \$9,468 03

The foregoing accounts are correctly cast and duly vouched.

GEO. D. EPPS, }
 JESSE P. WOODBURY, } *Accountants.*

REPORT
OF THE
OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

The subscribers, overseers of the poor, report as follows :

To cost of farm,	\$2,664 38	
Amount of stock as appraised last year,	765 60	
Hay and fodder,	181 50	
Farming tools,	169 50	
Miscellaneous articles,	337 86	
Provision and produce,	260 03	
Interest on farm,	159 86	
Due Henry Davis, April 1st, 1876,	370 00	
Cash received of Town Treasurer,	50 00	
Cash in Agent's hands,	31 36	
	<hr/>	\$4,990 09

APPRAISAL OF PROPERTY, FEB. 28, 1876.

By farm,	\$2,664 38
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LIVE STOCK.

1 pair oxen, \$170, 6 cows, \$310,	\$480 00	
1 horse, \$130, 2 breeding sows, \$40,	170 00	
27 fowls, at 67 cents, 1 sheep, \$10,	28 00	
	<hr/>	\$678 00

HAY AND FODDER.

11 tons hay at \$16,	\$176 00	
Lot corn fodder and straw,	10 00	
Lot bedding,	4 00	
	<hr/>	\$190 00

FARMING TOOLS.

1 wagon, \$25, 1 sleigh, \$20,	\$45 00	
1 ox cart, \$20, 2 ox sleds, \$4,	24 00	
2 wheelbarrows \$5, 3 ox yokes, \$12,	17 00	
5 plows, \$23, 1 cultivator, \$6 50,	29 50	
3 chains, \$3 25, 2 harrows, \$5 50,	8 75	
	<hr/>	
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	\$124 25	

Amount carried forward, \$124 25

1 whiffletree and chain, \$1, 4 hay forks, \$2,	3 00
3 manure forks, \$2 25, 2 shovels, \$1 75,	4 00
5 hand rakes, \$1, 2 drag rakes, \$1 25,	2 25
4 hoes, \$1, 3 axes, \$1 50, 2 iron bars, \$2,	4 50
Lot scythes and snaths,	4 00
Beetle and wages, \$1 60, carpenters' tools, \$10,	11 60
2 wood saws, \$1 75, 2 grindstones, \$6,	7 75
1 sickle, 25, dry measures, 25,	50
1 shaving horse, \$1, 2 harnesses, \$15,	16 00
2 horse blankets and surcingle,	2 50
Lot baskets, \$1, 1 stone drag, 2 00,	3 00
Hog hook and truss, 1 25, paint brush, 50,	1 75
Curry comb and brush,	2 00
Saw-set and wrench,	1 50
3 whips, and lot stocks,	1 25
	<hr/>
	\$190 35

MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES.

Sap fixtures,	\$40 00
10 meal bags, \$2 00, lot dry casks, \$1 75,	3 75
Lot lumber, \$4, 4 ladders, \$4,	8 00
Fruit cans, \$1 50, wheel-jack, 50,	2 00
2 tubs, \$1, lot ropes, \$1 25,	2 25
Household furniture,	240 00
1 buffalo robe,	8 50
Cash in Agent's hands,	222 00
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	\$526 40

PROVISIONS AND PRODUCE.

62 bus. corn, \$62, 45 bus. oats, \$27,	\$89 00
110 bus. potatoes, \$40, lot garden sauce, \$3,	43 00
3 bbls. apples, \$6 300 lbs. salt pork, \$45,	51 00
60 lbs. ham, \$9, 40 gallons soap, \$6 67,	15 67
1 bu. beans, \$2 50, 1 1-2 bus. peas, \$1 50,	4 00
120 lbs. beef, \$12, 1 1-4 bus. salt, 60,	12 60
4 lbs. candles, 50, 1 bbl. meal, \$2 25	2 75
1-4 bbl. flour, \$2, 35 lbs. lard, \$5 25,	7 25
40 lbs. tallow, \$4, 3 gals. vinegar, \$1,	5 00
Lot barrels and half barrels,	2 50
	<hr/>
	\$232 77
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	\$4,481 90

Received from County for support of paupers at the farm,	\$226 75
There is now due from the County for sup- port of paupers at the farm,	110 50
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	\$4,819 15

HENRY DAVIS, AGENT.

Schedule of articles sold from the farm with the amount received for the same, from March 1st, 1875 to March 1st, 1876:

Cash in Agent's hands,	\$31 36	
Received for oxen on town team,	1 00	
“ 3 pairs oxen,	681 00	
“ calves sold,	52 86	
“ one sheep, \$10, 2 cows, \$65,	75 00	
“ 3 gallons maple syrup,	3 50	
“ poultry, \$3 99, eggs, \$42 72,	46 71	
“ pigs, \$95 50, 1 hog, 44 50,	140 00	
“ 1 fat shoat,	25 09	
“ butter, \$191 37, beef, \$27 28,	218 65	
“ 1 beef hide, \$3 80, hemlock boards \$7 00,	10 80	
“ work off of farm.	24 26	
		\$1,310 23

Which is accounted for as follows:

Paid for 3 pair oxen,	\$587 50	
Cow and calf,	65 65	
Cow,	35 00	
Corn, \$42 50, 1 sleigh, \$21,	63 50	
Oats, \$6 75, for use of bull and hog, \$12,	18 75	
Grinding grain, \$4 32, tax in Deering, \$1 18,	5 50	
Repairs on wagon,	9 50	
Threshing grain, \$2 80, tin ware, \$1 25,	4 05	
Buffalo robe, \$8 50, sawing lumber, \$2 70,	11 20	
Meat bill, \$7 25, for sundries, \$20 70,	27 95	
Amasa Downs, for flour,	31 50	
Store goods,	125 53	
Grange store, for flour,	31 25	
“ “ store goods,	40 05	
R. Bradford, for goods,	4 19	
Blacksmiths' bill,	10 11	
Superphosphate,	11 15	
Meal and shorts,	5 37	
		\$1,087 75

The number of paupers supported at the farm is seven. Expenses of this support to the town is \$170 94. The expenses of paupers off the farm is \$116 25, making \$287 19, for support of paupers the past year.

HIRAM PATCH,	} Overseers of the Poor.
GEORGE A. DUNCKLEE.	
SAMUEL E. STEVENS,	

TOWN LIBRARY.

The report of the Trustees is hereby respectfully submitted, as follows:—

Books purchased as per voucher,	\$63 00
Books rebound, " "	20 30
Librarian's salary,	26 00
Stationery and Printing,	8 00
Expenses,	0 65
Expense of warming and lighting room,	2 69
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Total,	\$120 64

CONTRA.

By cash on hand March 1, 1875,	\$10 20
" Drawn from Town Treasurer,	100 00
Fines and catalogues sold,	3 44
Due the trustees (cash advanced),	7 00
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	\$120 64

With the limited appropriation given by the town, as much has been done in the direction of purchasing books as the trustees could reasonably allow, and it is much to be regretted that a larger number of volumes could not have been added to our shelves. An increase of means is much to be desired for this purpose.

GEO. E. DOWNS,)
 A. H. BIXBY,) Trustees.
 JAS. T. BIXBY,)

CONDITION OF SCHOOLS.

In reporting the condition of our schools at the present time, your committee is of the opinion that more real progress has been made during the year now closing than the preceding one. Generally speaking we have been more fortunate in the selection of competent teachers, who have not only been thorough in instruction and discipline, but have also gained the love and respect of their pupils in an unusual degree.

By comparison with the report of last year it will be seen that the average length of schools is about the same; the wages of teachers is slightly increased; the average cost of tuition per scholar is 74 cents per week this year, last year \$1.02; the num-

ber of scholars now 190, then 157; the average per cent. of attendance over 90, last year 85; the number of visitors one-fourth more than last year,—facts that are mainly a credit to the town and a cause of rejoicing to all friends of education.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

Within the year two districts, Nos. 4 and 9 have united, to the evident advantage of both. No school has been held in No. 7 for lack of scholars enough to make one profitable, the district making some arrangement with the parents of the scholars there for school privileges elsewhere.

TEXT-BOOKS.

Last year in making my annual report to the State Superintendent, it was stated that the number of authors of Text-books on arithmetic used in our schools was eight; a very serious objection to efficiency and economy of time in schools. After due consideration we decided to substitute Greenleaf's Series throughout—already in partial use—believing that a well graded series by a single author would be far better than the heterogeneous medley heretofore used.

The opinion seems to be rapidly gaining ground with our best educators that written and mental exercises should be combined throughout the whole course. Greenleaf embodies this idea and his series is, we think, more extensively used in New England than any other.

TEACHERS' MEETINGS.

During the year your committee has held a number of meetings with the teachers employed in our schools, for consultation and discussion of topics connected with school interests. Among the subjects considered have been school government, corporeal punishment, methods of conducting recitations, thoroughness in drill, rewards and prizes, best plan for examination at close of term, and others of more or less importance.

HERE IS OUR CREED.

We believe there never need be a lack of good order in the school-room, if the teacher is born to his or her calling, and if parents would always, when any complaint is made by their darlings, hear both sides of the case before expressing any opinion or taking any action in the matter.

We believe, if the above conditions are complied with, that the rod may be spared, and the child too without spoiling either.

We believe that, in order to get up an interest in recitations, there should be *special preparation every time* on the teacher's part; that the text-book should be simply a help and not a finality; that unless the teacher exhibits energy, tact and judgment it is

useless to expect interest in the class. With them, rightly used, success is morally certain.

We believe in the old motto, "Slow and sure," and we do *not* believe that Darwinism or any other *ism* has yet developed anything better.

We believe that a judicious system of rewards and prizes may be made a very efficient means of awakening an interest in studies; that while it does not appeal to the highest motives, yet it is a round in the ladder of progress that cannot well be omitted.

We believe that closing examinations should be conducted mainly by the teacher, not only to test his capacity for compressing the work of a term into a single day, but also to show to visitors what the scholars *do* know, rather than what they do *not*.

PRIZE BOOKS.

The interest on the Woodbury Fund has been expended this year as usual, in purchasing books, a part of which by special arrangement with some of the teachers, have been offered for direct competition among scholars for correct deportment, for excellence in different studies and punctual attendance, with very marked results. Prizes given for scholarship have been awarded not always to the best scholar, but to the most diligent. Very much depends on the strict impartiality of the teacher, a trait that is one of the highest attainments in the profession, and which no one can afford to disregard.

In conclusion, perhaps we might say it is useless to advocate any radical reforms or changes in our school system so long as public sentiment is averse to it, were it not that history shows that all reforms originate with the few and become popular by their own merits, aided by the persistent energy of the movers. Hence we say—cannot our school funds be more economically distributed? Would not a law securing more uniformity in text-books be beneficial? Ought not the State to furnish books and make our schools practically free? Can we not require better qualifications in teachers? Ought not our school rooms to be made more attractive by maps, pictures and the like? Shall we not improve the grounds about them? Let the boys have a good place for base-ball; the girls a good place for croquet, swings, anything to make it a place where scholars like to go.

All which is respectfully submitted,

GEO. D. EPPS,

Supt. School Com.

SCHOOL REPORT—STATISTICAL TABLE.

	Dist. No. 1.	Dist. No. 3.	Dist. No. 4.	Dist. No. 5.	Dist. No. 6.	Dist. No. 8.	Dist. No. 10.	Dist. No. 12.	Total.
Length of School in weeks	24	30	29	29	19	11	16	13	21 AV.
Average wages of teachers per month	\$24	\$34	\$36	\$35	\$31	\$30	\$28	\$24	30.20 AV.
Average cost of tuition per scholar per week28	.23	.37	.35	.65	1.87	.47	1.00	.53 AV.
Whole number different scholars	21	78	35	25	12	4	15	6	196
Average number of scholars per term	18	54	24	18	11	3.8	11	3.3	145
Average daily attendance	15.6	47	22.3	15.4	9	3.8	11	5.3	129.4
Per cent. of daily attendance87	.87	.93	.95	.82	.95	.92	.90	.90
Pupils not absent one-half day for the year	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	6
Number of visits by Supt. School Committee	6	10	9	7	4	2	6	2	46
Number of visits by other citizens	49	245	67	59	22	10	62	11	525
Number of pupils attending to Reading	21	68	35	25	12	4	15	6	186
Number of pupils attending to Spelling	21	68	35	25	12	4	15	6	186
Number of pupils attending to Penmanship	13	34	20	17	8	3	10	4	109
Number of pupils attending to Arithmetic	14	52	30	17	9	3	10	6	141
Number of pupils attending to Geography	10	25	14	17	5	2	9	1	83
Number of pupils attending to Grammar	4	20	13	10	3	2	2	1	52
Number of pupils attending to History	1	4	5	3	3	2	2	1	16
Number of pupils attending to Physiology	6	6	7	1	1	1	1	1	14
Number of pupils attending to Composition	6	10	15	11	1	1	1	1	43
Number of pupils attending to Drawing	15	15	9	8	1	1	1	1	32
Number of pupils attending to Vocal Music	19	47	10	19	1	1	1	1	95
Number of pupils attending to Algebra	1	15	5	1	1	1	1	1	22
Number of pupils attending to Latin	1	10	2	2	1	1	1	1	12





New Hampshire State Library



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