

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

SELECTMEN, TOWN TREASURER, AUDITORS,

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF PELHAM, N. H.,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1883.

J. S. [unclear]

LOWELL, MASS.
MORNING MAIL PRINT, NO. 18 JACKSON STREET.
1883.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

TOWN EXPENSES.

PAY OF TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Charles W. Hobbs, for services as Selectman for the year ending March 14, 1882.....	\$89 00
Ezekiel C. Gage, for services as Selectman for the year ending March 14, 1882.....	40 00
George H. Currier, for services as Selectman for the year ending March 14, 1882.....	40 00
Charles W. Hobbs, for services as Town Clerk for the year ending March 14, 1882.....	30 00
Augustus Berry, for services as Superintending School Committee for the year ending March 14, 1882.....	40 00
John Woodbury, for services as Town Treasurer for the year ending March 14, 1882.....	40 00
F. M. Woodbury, for services as Collector of Taxes for the year 1881.....	70 00
John Woodbury, for services as Supervisor of Check Lists for the term ending November 8, 1882...	15 00
Otis G. Spear, for services as Supervisor of Check Lists for the term ending November 8, 1882...	15 00
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	\$379 00

PAUPER EXPENSES.

Paid for board and clothing for F. W. Titcomb at N. H. Insane Asylum from Oct. 1, 1881, to Jan. 1, 1883.....	\$194 99
Augustus Kent, for board and nursing Frederic Wright.....	46 00
H. A. P. Rundlett, M. D., for medical services for Frederic Wright.....	30 00
C. Chamberlain, for coffin for same.....	13 50
J. T. Pitman, for board of Elizabeth A. Roney to March 1, 1883, 17 weeks, @ \$3.00.....	51 00
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	\$335 49

COUNTY CHARGES.

Paid James A. Foster, for goods furnished Nathan Caldwell to Jan. 1, 1883.....	\$142 22
Charles D. Kent, for board of Betsey Frost to Jan. 1, 1883.....	73 25
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	*\$215 47
Paid James A. Foster, for goods furnished Nathan Caldwell from Jan. 1 to Feb. 22, 1883.....	\$27 17
Rei Hills, for wood furnished Nathan Caldwell....	8 50
J. K. Marshall, for wood furnished Nathan Caldwell.	3 62
Charles D. Kent, for board of Betsey Frost from Jan. 1 to Feb. 1, 1883.....	8 50
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Amount now due from the County.....	\$47 79

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Paid Stedman D. Fox, for gravel.....	15 00
A. P. H. Brown, for labor on highway	2 00
John W. Durant, for gravel.....	15 25
E. E. Richardson, for gravel.....	5 00
E. E. Richardson, for labor on highway.....	1 00
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	\$38 25

SNOW BILLS.

Paid John Muldoon, for breaking snow paths in 1881-82.	6 75
G. B. Currier, for breaking snow paths in 1881-82..	7 36
L. C. Richardson, for breaking snow paths in 1881-82.....	9 30
James E. Butler, for breaking snow paths in 1881-82.	1 05
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	\$24 46

TOWN HOUSE.

Received for the use of the Town House for the year ending March 1, 1883.....	\$50 50
Paid F. M. Woodbury, for articles furnished. \$ 6 40	
C. W. Hobbs, for wood, and cash paid for washing table cloths, etc.....	16 00
C. W. Hobbs, for care of House and articles furnished.....	18 50
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	40 90
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Net income.....	\$9 60

*This amount has been repaid by the County of Hillsborough.

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

Non-resident highway tax paid in labor in 1881.....	\$ 9 91
Non-resident highway tax paid in labor in 1882.....	106 45
O. A. Simpson, part of tax of 1881.....	6 61
S. H. Shattuck, part of tax of 1882.....	6 07
John Richardson, tax of 1881.....	2 31
W. W. Kent, poll tax of 1880.....	80
F. Wright, poll tax of 1880.....	80
Jameson Greeley, poll tax of 1881.....	66
Allen Lewis, poll tax of 1881.....	66
W. W. Kent, poll tax of 1881.....	66
Benjamin Buttrick, poll tax of 1882.....	65
Alphonso Brown, poll tax of 1882.....	65
George W. Giles, poll tax of 1882.....	83
C. C. Perkins, poll tax of 1882.....	65
Marcell Smith, poll tax of 1882.....	65
Frank Webster, poll tax of 1882.....	65
Albert Willey, poll tax of 1882.....	65
James E. Butler, for a public watering place.....	3 00
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	\$142 66

CROW BOUNTIES.

Paid, from March 14 to June 25, 1882, bounty on 252 crows, @ 10 cents.....	*\$25 20
From June 25, 1882, to March 1, 1883, bounty on 103 crows, @ 10 cents.....	10 30
Amount now due from the State.....	10 30

MISCELLANEOUS.

Paid Stone, Bacheller & Livingston, for printing Town Reports of 1882.....	\$12 80
John Woodbury, expenses paying State and County taxes for 1882.....	4 40
Dr. Amos Bachelder, fees for returning list of births and deaths.....	3 50
C. W. Hobbs, cash paid for books, stationery, car fare, etc.....	15 00
C. W. Hobbs, for cash paid for expenses in the Hudson Bridge case.....	12 25
Gen. A. F. Stevens, counsel fees.....	134 61
John Woodbury, for services as Sexton.....	53 00
W. F. Richardson, part of school-house tax in Dis- trict No. 5.....	150 00
A. F. Carlton, part of school-house tax in Dist. No. 5, State tax.....	25 00
County tax.....	1348 00
	1028 35
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	\$2786 91

*This amount has been repaid by the State.

SCHOOL MONEY.

Paid District No. 1 balance of town appropriation of 1881.....	\$141 82
Part of town appropriation of 1882.....	63 55
Literary fund.....	12 53
Dog fund.....	12 10
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	\$230 00
Paid District No. 2 balance of town appropriation of 1881.....	\$ 95 03
Part of town appropriation of 1882.....	142 73
Literary fund.....	15 18
Dog fund.....	13 96
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	\$266 90
Paid District No. 3 balance of town appropriation of 1881.....	\$328 06
Part of town appropriation of 1882.....	38 54
Literary fund.....	10 25
Dog fund.....	12 10
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	*\$388 95
Paid District No. 4 balance of town appropriation of 1881.....	\$130 81
Part of town appropriation of 1882.....	13 69
Literary fund.....	9 11
Dog fund.....	13 02
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	†\$166 63
Paid District No. 5 balance of town appropriation of 1881.....	\$117 86
Part of town appropriation of 1882.....	18 14
Literary fund.....	12 53
Dog fund.....	13 02
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	†\$161 55
Paid District No. 6 part of balance of appropriation of 1881.....	\$112 17
Balance due District No. 1.....	\$161 45
Balance due District No. 2.....	82 27
Balance due District No. 3.....	186 46
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<i>Amount carried forward.....</i>	\$430 18

*Of this amount \$110.40 was paid for the winter term of 1881-82.

†Districts Nos. 4 and 5 have not drawn their money for the full payment of the winter term.

<i>Amount brought forward</i>		\$430 18
Balance due District No. 4.....		211 31
Balance due District No. 5.....		206 86
Balance due District No. 6—		
Literary Fund.....	\$1 89	
Dog fund.....	2 80	
Town appropriation of 1881-82.....	64 61	
		<u>69 30</u>
Total.....		<u>\$917 65</u>

AMOUNT OF TAXES ASSESSED.

State tax.....	\$1,348 00
County tax.....	1,028 35
School tax.....	1,179 50
Highway tax.....	1,500 00
Dog tax.....	71 00
School-house tax, District No. 5.....	150 00
	<u>\$5,276 85</u>

Rate upon \$1,000, \$6.50—not including highway tax. Rate of highway tax, \$2.80 on \$1,000.

Total valuation of the town April 1, 1882.....\$557,570 00

No. of horses taxed in the town April 1, 1882.....	244
“ “ oxen “ “ “ “ “ “ “	34
“ “ cows “ “ “ “ “ “ “	767
“ “ other neat stock taxed in town April 1, 1882....	98
“ “ sheep “ “ “ “ “ “ “	94

CHARLES W. HOBBS,
GEO. H. CURRIER,
NELSON WEBSTER,

Selectmen of Pelham.

TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT.

MARCH 1, 1883.

The Treasurer charges himself with the following receipts :

DR.

To cash in treasury March 1, 1882.....	\$1,474 23
To cash received of F. M. Woodbury, Collector, the balance of taxes for 1881	429 80
To cash for interest on last item.....	4 43
To cash received of E. F. Wood, C. H. Carter, H. J. Willey and J. N. Woodman for cemetery lots	4 00
To cash received of F. M. Woodbury, Collector of Taxes for the year A. D. 1882.....	3,343 58
Received of the State Treasurer the savings bank tax amounting to.....	574 78
Received railroad tax of the same.....	131 74
Received abatement on State tax.....	160 00
Received for bounty on wild animals.....	27 20
Received of A. Goodwin, for old bridge planks.....	4 00
Received of the agent, for Town hall.....	50 50
Received of the County of Hillsborough, for the support of County paupers	280 20
Received remittance of County taxes for the years 1881 and 1882, or portion of same.....	244 12
	\$6,728 58

CR.

By cash paid on sundry orders issued by the Selectmen amounting to.....	\$5,218 41
Leaving the amount of cash in the treasury March 1, 1883, of.....	\$1,510 17

LITERARY FUND.

Amount in treasury, and appropriated, belonging to school district No. 6.....	\$ 1 89
Amount in treasury, and unappropriated.....	74 52

DOG FUND TAX.

Amount appropriated, and in the treasury, belonging to school district No. 6.....	\$ 2 80
Amount in hands of Collector.....	71 00

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE TOWN,
MARCH 1, 1883.

Amount of cash in the treasury.....	\$1,510 17
Outstanding taxes now unpaid or in the hands of Collector.....	711 43

JOHN WOODBURY,
Treasurer.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

We, the subscribers, having been appointed a committee to examine the accounts of the Selectmen and Treasurer of the Town of Pelham, for the year ending March 1, 1883, report that we find all orders issued by the Selectmen duly vouched and receipted for, and he Treasurer's accounts correctly kept and properly vouched.

FREDERIC A. CUTTER,
GEORGE S. BUTLER,
Auditors.



REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE TOWN OF PELHAM,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1883.

The Statutes of New Hampshire require the Superintending School Committee to make a report of the schools to the town at the annual meeting. And while there must necessarily be something of a sameness in these reports, it is profitable to have the attention of the people annually called to their schools, even if nothing new is presented. The schools are thus kept in remembrance, and some reflection on their welfare is awakened. For several years it has been gratifying to notice a steady improvement. And this progress has been *marked* the past year.

UNITY IN SCHOOL WORK.

Much of the work in the schools is sort of hap-hazard, done by pieces, with no regard to fitness, symmetry and completion. Unity in school work implies such a classification as shall economize and give directness and efficiency to the teacher's labor; such an arrangement of studies, not only for the school as a whole but for individual members, as shall make all the labor of the teacher tell in the discipline and development of all the faculties of the child.

CONTINUITY IN INSTRUCTION.

This is essential in attaining the unity of the school work. Two of our schools have had teachers the entire year who taught them the previous year, and thus were thoroughly acquainted with them, and with no delay they took up the work where they had left it; and consequently there has been a unity in the results of the successive years of labor that could not otherwise have been attained, which is truly beautiful and very valuable.

THE RANK OF OUR SCHOOLS.

This is high, but there should be a constant effort to raise it. There is hardly a limit to what they may be made. A child may obtain in them not merely a common but a thorough and finished English education. They have usually been thirty weeks in length, — as much of the year as it may be well for children to be in school.

TEACHERS.

Little children need teachers of thorough scholarship. They are not to be qualified to merely teach the child a few elementary things, but they are to awaken in the child's mind ideas. They should know how to quicken all the child's faculties and form correct intellectual habits. The teacher not only should have some general knowledge of mental science, but should have learned from observation something about the ways in which different minds work, in order to develop the most successfully the working capabilities of each individual mind. The human mind is a delicate and wondrous thing, and there is danger that the teacher who has no understanding of it may do it irremediable

harm. There is no question but many children are permanently injured by teachers ignorant upon this matter.

A fundamental thing in right education is self-reliance, clear perceptions, a verifying of the mind's own processes. A teacher should be able to distinguish between sluggishness of mind and mind laboring for a clear perception. It is better to wait several minutes for an answer, and have it accurate and clear, than the instantaneous reply that may be either right or wrong. The best thinkers, the clearest heads, are usually deliberate. A child is often spoilt as a thinker and reasoner by being hurried in his answers.

The teacher should know something of the order in which the mental powers are usually developed. The memory and perception before the reasoning and logical powers. Let memory and observation be rightly trained, and the child not only has material for its own enjoyment but for reason to work with in after years; and it should be borne in mind that memory is not to be exercised in the subject matter of reason, but of perception, in subjects of narration and knowledge derived primarily through the senses, and the teacher should be full of facts pertaining to this kind of knowledge.

No person is suitable to instruct little children who is not a close and interested observer of nature. He should be versed in the natural history of his neighborhood. Little children ought to be taught at school about the birds that sing in our trees, the insects that fly in the air of summer, about the trees, shrubs and flowers of our latitude. Botany ought to be one of the qualifications of our teachers. In one of our schools there have been fine classes in this study the past year. It is very important in the selection of teachers that those should be secured who have been through some thorough course of English studies.

NEEDS OF THE SCHOOLS.

1. An appropriation of at least \$1300. Unless this is made, the schools must be abridged in length.

2. They are in need of charts, maps, some inexpensive apparatus and reference books.

3. Lines in which they need to advance.

a. More system in study. One of the ends of education is to be systematic. Success and happiness in any sphere of life is largely dependent upon this. Everything about school exercises should have system as a habit in life in view. All the work of school, even its general details, should be systematized. There should be system in the order of studies and the methods of pursuing them. Let this habit be formed in the pupil at school, and it will attend him into life.

b. Another line of advance is vocal culture. The human voice is not only wonderful as the organ by which thoughts can be communicated, human wants and wishes made known, but in its powers of expression and its susceptibility of yielding pleasure and imparting a personal grace and charm. One of the essentials in education is the culture of the vocal powers. There has been improvement in this, but it needs increased attention.

c. Another line of advance is the teaching children expression. The power of expression is not only needed in the communication of ideas, but it helps in clearness of perception. The attention of all the teachers was called to this, and in one school there was manifest improvement. Children were taught to invent a narrative or story, and they learned not only to clothe ideas in fitting language but to *search* for ideas.

d. Another line is the habit of observation. In whatever phase the end of education is viewed, the

habit of observation is seen to be of prime importance. If the end be to merely get a living, then one should be a close observer of how things are done, what are the main chances, which are the best methods, when the opportunities open. If the end be intellectual culture, then the habit is indispensable, for only the observing mind can gather in knowledge. If it be to attain eminence, then it must be by being a close observer of every thing that will help one rise. If it be to make our fellows happier, then it must be by a vigilant observation of the conditions which affect their happiness.

Most people go through life with their eyes closed. The truly observing are few; once in a while there is one, who will see more in a dozen miles of travel than most persons would in a tour of the Eastern Continent. But let the habit of observation be cultivated in school and it will become helpful in many ways. Such scholars will be wide awake, quick to see a point, and interested in school work.

e. Another line is subjection to school authority. Our schools are very free from any elements of insubordination, but it may be well to keep in mind that subjection to the authority of school, lays the foundation in character of the law obeying citizen. The boy who has no home government, may be saved from becoming a lawless citizen by being compelled to be subject to the authority of school.

4. Another need of our schools is the holding them to a high plain.

Deterioration is easy, but preservation and advance are difficult. Let an inefficient teacher, or one of not the right tone, into one of our schools, and in a single term there would be a degeneration that could not be cured in several terms of the best teaching; or let the appropriations be diminished and the schools shortened, then

their standard would sink. Let our substantial citizens become indifferent to the schools, and their excellence will depart.

SCHOOL-HOUSES.

The town has been advancing in the matter of good school-houses. No expenditure tells more in the cause of education than that for good school-houses. A neat school-room, with chairs and desks, is an economical expenditure. There is not only the comfort of the pupils, their freedom from the temptation to disturb one another, and consequently their ability to do more studying, but the teacher can govern better, and have more time for the work of instruction. There can be no question but the ability of the teacher, in the line of proper school work, is increased many fold by an improved school-room. Not merely the room but the surroundings of the school-house have an important relation to the *morale* of the school.

No. 5 has made, the past year, some fine improvements upon both the interior and exterior of her school-house. It is to be regretted that, in a school-room so neat and pleasant, chairs and single desks had not taken the place of the old benches and forms.

It is to be hoped that No. 1 will soon move in the matter of a new school-house, with ample grounds for the scholars.

I take great pleasure in reporting the fidelity of the Prudential Committees. In each instance they exercised care in the selection of well-qualified and efficient teachers, and attended faithfully to all the interests of the district.

The roll of honor has never been so large as the past year, — an unmistakable evidence of the increased interest of both parents and children in school.

STATISTICS.

District No. 1.—Mr. Charles W. Hobbs, Prudential Committee. Miss Kate B. Symonds, of Lowell, Mass., Teacher, 1st term, 8 weeks; No. of scholars, 29; wages, \$30; 2d term, 9 weeks; No. of scholars, 30; wages, \$32; 3d term, 10 weeks; No. of scholars, 32; wages, \$34. Miscellaneous expenses, \$13. Whole No. of scholars, 33; 15 boys and 18 girls.

District No. 2. Mr. Timothy Donovan, Prudential Committee. Miss M. Amanda Cloud, Teacher, 1st and 2d terms, 9 weeks each; 3d term, 12 weeks; No. of scholars 1st and 3d terms, 31; 2d term, 35; wages, 1st and 2d terms, \$32; 3d term, \$40. Miscellaneous expenses, \$14.75. Whole No. of scholars, 36; 22 boys and 14 girls.

District No. 3. Mr. George L. Webster, Prudential Committee. Miss Mary B. Titcomb, of Windham, Teacher of the 1st and 2d terms; 1st term, 10 weeks; No. scholars, 22; 2d term, 12 weeks; No. scholars, 18; wages, \$30. Miss Mary E. Richardson, Teacher of 3d term of 12 weeks; No. scholars, 25; wages, \$32. Miscellaneous expenses, \$17. Whole No. scholars, 26; 15 boys and 11 girls.

District No. 4. Mr. Henry Russ, Prudential Committee. Miss Ruth S. Johnson, of Manchester, Teacher of 1st and 2d terms; 1st term, 9 weeks; No. scholars, 21; 2d term, 8 weeks; No. scholars, 23; wages, \$30. Miss Alice L. Williams, of Newburyport, Mass., Teacher of 3d term of 12 weeks; No. scholars, 25; wages, \$36. Miscellaneous expenses, \$33.10. Whole No. scholars, 32; 14 boys and 18 girls.

District No. 5. Mr. Alvin Carlton, Prudential Committee. Miss Julia A. Bixby, of Lowell, Mass., Teacher, 1st term, 9 weeks; No. scholars, 26; 2d term, 8 weeks; No. scholars, 30; 3d term, 13 weeks; No. scholars, 25; wages for the 1st and 2d terms, \$32; for 3d term, \$36. Miscellaneous expenses, \$17. Whole No. of scholars, 30; 15 boys and 15 girls.

District No. 6. Mr. Frank Winn, Prudential Committee. Miss Nellie F. Hardy, Teacher of 1st term of 9 weeks; No. scholars, 3; wages, \$20. Miss Emma B. Winn, of Hudson, Teacher of 2d term of 12 weeks. Whole No. of scholars, 3; wages, \$20. Miscellaneous expenses, \$7.17. Whole No. of scholars, 3; 2 boys and 1 girl.

The wages of teachers are per month, and include board. The whole No. of scholars is the number of different scholars that have attended the school the past year. The No. of children in town, between the ages of 5 and 15, enumerated by the Selectmen in April last, 154; 71 boys and 83 girls, 5 more than in the enumeration of 1881. The No. of all ages attending school the past year, 160; 83 boys and 77 girls.

The amount expended for schools as appears from the school-registers is \$1437.53. District No. 1, for 27 weeks, \$230. No. 2, for 30 weeks, \$278.75. No. 3, for 34 weeks, \$278. No. 4, for 29 weeks, \$268.61. No. 5, for 30 weeks, \$270. No. 6, for 21 weeks, \$112.17. The amount raised by the town, \$1179.50. Literary fund, \$61.49. Dog tax, \$67. The whole amount available for school purposes \$1307.99. The amount expended beyond the sum available, \$129.54. The money expended in the five districts, for school purposes, is about the same as last year. In these districts the expense per scholar the same as last year, \$8.44.

AUGUSTUS BERRY,

Superintending School Committee.

PELHAM, March 1, 1883.