

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN, TOWN TREASURER, AUDITORS,

AND

Superintending School Committee

OF THE

TOWN OF PELHAM, N. H.,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1876.

LOWELL, MASS.:

STONE, HUSE & CO., STEAM BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS, No. 130 CENTRAL STREET.

1876.



REPORT.

The undersigned, Selectmen of the Town of Pelham, respectfully submit the following report :

PAY OF TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid George H. Currier, bill for services as Selectman and use of horse, for the year ending March 8, 1875,	\$92 50
William G. Butler, bill for services as Selectman and use of horse, for the year ending March 8, 1875,	31 75
Alpheus G. Hobbs, bill for services as Selectman and use of horse, for the year ending March 8, 1875,	20 00
Dr. Amos Bachelder, bill for services as Town Clerk, for the year ending March 8, 1875.....	30 00
John Woodbury, bill for services as Town Treasurer, for the year ending March 8, 1875.....	40 00
Frederic A. Cutter, bill for services as Superintending School Committee, year ending March 8, 1875..	40 00
Geo. H. Currier, bill for services as Collector of Taxes, for the year ending March 1, 1875.....	93 00
	\$347 25

PAUPER EXPENSES.

Paid William G. Butler, cash paid in aid of Samuel P. White, in the year 1875..	\$5 75	
Wm. G. Butler, cash expenses in conveying Mrs. Abbie Bean to county farm....	3 75	
		\$9 50
Aid furnished transient persons, for the year ending March 1, 1875.		
Paid William G. Butler.....	\$ 7 53	
Alpheus G. Hobbs.....	5 50	
George H. Currier.....	33 25	
		46 28
Aid furnished transient persons, for the year ending March 1, 1876.		
Paid William G. Buttler.....	\$20 00	
Luther C. Richardson.....	16 00	
		36 00
Total.....		\$91 78

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Paid Hiram S. Carlton, breaking snow paths, in 1873.....			\$10 00
Alfred S. Smith, " " " 1873.....			2 50
George D. Coburn, " " " 1873-4..			12 50
Andrew Tallant, " " " 1875.....			7 99
Jephthah Underwood, " " " 1875.....			4 46
Alpheus G. Hobbs, " " " 1875.....			8 00
Marshall & Co., " " " 1873-4..			4 92
William A. Giles, " " " 1873-4..			5 00
George H. Currier, cash paid out for breaking snow paths, in 1874-75.....			15 50
Alfred S. Smith, for gravel used in 1873.....			5 00
Sarah Lyon, for gravel used in 1873-4.....			4 00
Daniel Parson, for labor on highway, 1875.....			4 30
Daniel L. Coburn, " " 1874.....			1 86
John L. Jones, " " 1874.....			10 00
Jeremiah Farmer, for work on road, 1875.....			5 00
Alpheus Goodwin, damage.....			10 00
Joseph Marsh, balance due him on highway in school district No. 2.....			17 15
Warren Sherburne, balance due him on highway in school district No. 6.....			19 75
George H. Currier, balance due him on highway in school district No. 5.....			22 59
Charles H. Wyman, bill for railing embankments on side of highway.....			59 83
			<hr/>
			\$230 35
Orlando W. Spaulding, commissioner of highways, for year 1875.....	\$718 66		
Nelson Webster, commissioner of highways, for year 1875.....	709 71	1,428 37	
		<hr/>	\$1,658 72
Expenses of bridge near Butler's Mills.			
Paid Rei. Hills, for labor.....	\$84 37		
Israel Young, for labor.....	25 50		
George C. Butler, for stone.....	6 00		
Asa D. Butler, for 659 feet plank.....	11 56		
Wm. G. Butler, for board of workman..	10 00		
Luther C. Richardson, for logs.....	2 00		
Marshall & Co., expense incurred by letting off the water.....	15 00	154 43	
		<hr/>	\$1,813 15
Total.....			

SCHOOL MONEY.

Paid District No. 1, balance of town appropriation for 1874.....	\$131 45	
Part of town appropriation for 1875....	149 28	
Literary fund.....	15 27	
	<hr/>	\$296 00
Paid District No. 2, balance of town appropriation for 1874.....	\$177 66	
Part of town appropriation for 1875....	107 65	
Literary fund.....	16 69	
	<hr/>	302 00
Paid District No. 3, balance of town appropriation for 1874.....	\$257 50	
Part of town appropriation for 1875....	18 76	
Literary fund.....	9 07	
	<hr/>	285 33
Paid District No. 4, balance of town appropriation for 1874.....	\$110 28	
Part of town appropriation for 1875....	172 33	
Literary fund.....	14 79	
	<hr/>	297 40
Paid District No. 5, balance of town appropriation for 1874.....	\$179 35	
Part of town appropriation for 1875....	98 29	
Literary fund.....	13 36	
	<hr/>	291 00
Paid District No. 6, town appropriation for the year 1875.....	\$93 45	
Literary fund.....	3 34	
	<hr/>	96 79
		<hr/>
		\$1,568 52
Balance due school District No. 1.....	\$114 13	
2.....	155 76	
3.....	244 65	
4.....	153 13	
5.....	165 12	
Total.....	<hr/>	832 79

TOWN HOUSE.

Received for use of Town House for the year ending March 1, 1876.....		\$68 00
Paid Charles W. Hobbs, for opening and taking care of house.....	\$15 00	
Charles W. Hobbs, for 1½ cords of wood,	5 25	
Jonathan M. Atwood, for wood.....	5 50	
J. Woodbury, for oil, chimney, glass, etc.,	4 55	30 30
	<hr/>	
Income over expenses.....		\$37 70

Paid N. S. Sleeper, for labor on Town House,	\$7 31	
Chas. W. Hobbs, " " "	5 00	\$37 70
John Woodbury, nails, butts, screws, etc.,	1 12	
Simeon Currier, cash paid for lumber and hauling the same.....	15 04	28 47
Balance of income over repairs ..		<u>\$9 23</u>

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

Albert Young, tax of 1874	\$3 28
Sam'l Simpson, " "	3 28
F. P. Rand, " "	1 19
C. P. Hutchinson, " "	1 19
J. M. Gale, " "	2 28
Edw. Golden, " "	1 19
George C. Butler, part of tax of 1875.....	6 00
Dana Smith, " " "	6 00
Daniel Atwood, poll tax of 1875.....	1 20
Moses Johnson, dog tax of 1875.....	1 00
	<u>\$26 61</u>

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

Paid interest on note held against said town.....	\$26 25
John Woodbury, driving hearse 11 times during the year ending March 1, 1876.....	27 50
John Wood, for postage, dinners, etc., 1875.....	5 00
Wm. G. Butler, cash paid for stationery, for the two years ending March 1, 1876.....	3 75
A. F. Stevens, as counsel for 1874-5.....	7 00
Table for Town House.....	2 75
Register of Probate	4 06
George H. Currier, cash paid out for car fare, books, stationery, etc., for year ending March 8, 1875..	15 25
William G. Butler, insurance on Town House.....	33 75
John Woodbury, cash paid out for repairing and var- nishing hearse	20 55
Kimball Chaplin, clearing up the West Graveyard..	12 00
E. C. Gage, school-house tax in district No. 4	80 00
Warren Sherburne, school-house tax in district No. 6	35 00
Stone, Huse & Co., printing reports for the year end- ing March 1, 1875.....	23 25
John Woodbury, cash expenses in paying State and County taxes	4 95
Daniel Coburn, clearing up East Graveyard twice..	3 00
George H. Currier, cash paid in running the line and putting up bounds between Dracut and Pelham,	25 25
G. H. Currier, cash paid for insurance on Libby House	1 60
Jeremiah Farmer, dog damage to sheep.....	6 00

AMOUNT OF TAXES ASSESSED FOR 1875.

State tax	\$1,612 00
County tax	830 21
School tax	1,410 50
Dog tax	96 00
Town tax	1,700 00
Highway tax	1,500 00
School-house tax, district No. 4	80 00
School-house tax, district No. 6	35 00
All overlays	7 36
Total	<u>\$7,271 07</u>

Percentage upon \$1000, \$12.00.

Valuation of real estate, April, 1872	\$340,131 00
“ “ “ “ 1875	400,330 00
“ “ “ September, 1875	421,875 00

WILLIAM G. BUTLER,
LUTHER C. RICHARDSON,
GEORGE H. CURRIER,

PELHAM, March 1, 1876.

Selectmen of Pelham.

TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT.

MARCH 1, 1876.

March 1, 1875. Amount of cash in the treasury	\$786 99
Sept. 18. Received of Geo. H. Currier, collector, the outstanding taxes for 1874, am'ting to.	732 33
Amount of interest on the same	12 89
Received of the collector, during the year, of the taxes for A. D., 1875	5,885 89
Dec. 1, 1875. Received of the State Treasurer, the Sav- ings Bank tax, amounting to	371 95
Amount of Railroad tax from the same.	126 81
Received of Warren Sherburne, for two graveyard lots	1 50
Received of John Richardson, a balance on tax, A. D., 1871	4 50
Received of the agent, for the use of the Town Hall during the year ending March 1, 1876	68 00
	<u>\$7,990 86</u>

The Treasurer of said town charges the same with the following payments as ordered by the Selectmen thereof:

To cash paid on sundry orders during the year ending	
March 1, 1876	\$6,604 36
March 1, 1876. Leaving a balance in the treasury of....	1,386 50
Outstanding taxes now unpaid and due the town.....	1,290 18

LITERARY FUND.

March 1, 1876. Amount of cash now in the treasury....	\$72 24
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DOG TAX FUND.

March 1, 1875. Amount on hand.....	84 00
March 1, 1876. Received.....	95 00
Making now in the treasury.....	<u>\$179 00</u>

FINANCIAL STANDING OF THE TOWN.

The amount of town debt at the present time.....	\$3,519 11
or the Hastings Fund, so called.	

JOHN WOODBURY,
Town Treasurer.

WE, the undersigned, a committee chosen to examine and audit the Selectmen's and Treasurer's accounts, as above, report that we find them properly kept and correctly cast and vouched.

MOODY HOBBS,
DANIEL MARSHALL,
GEO. S. BUTLER,

Auditors.

PELHAM, March 1, 1876.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Superintending School Committee
FOR THE TOWN OF PELHAM,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 8, 1876.

AT our annual town meetings the Selectmen, Town Treasurer and School Committee bring in their reports, in conformity with the statutes. The two former bear so heavily on every man's pocket as to afford universal discussion; but the items of the Committee's report, which relate to what our children get for the money paid, are not brought up often in public, and very little talked about in society's circles. Perhaps in not another instance, in all the detail of domestic economy, is the expenditure of a definite amount of money so little considered. The management of our system of schools is left too much to committees and teachers, and too much neglected by parents and guardians. To pay others for doing their duties in this direction, does not exempt us from doing what the duty of our affections imposes. The object of a school report should be to show the actual condition of our schools; show how the money is expended; state the condition of school-houses, and point out the defects of our school system, if any exist, so that they may be remedied in the future.

The schools the past year will, I think, compare favorably with those of previous years. I believe the instruction imparted by the teachers has been of a more practical nature than in any year since the schools have been under my supervision. Some of the schools, from a variety of causes, have not accomplished all the good they might, had those causes not existed; others have been very successful, and the teachers have been well sustained by the parents.

And here allow me to express the opinion, that after a teacher has received a certificate to teach and has commenced a school, no parent has, in justice to the teacher, to their children and to themselves, any right to express any opinion in relation to the school, until they investigate for themselves, by personal inspection of the school, the actual condition of affairs; and then such opinion ought not to be expressed in the presence of the children. The defects if any exist may almost always be remedied in season to insure an average term of usefulness, if the teacher is qualified to teach any school. It often happens that a teacher will be very successful in one school, and then make an entire failure in an adjoining district, yet possessing the same qualifications in both cases. Such failures may generally be attributed to local causes, and not to any fault of the teacher.

STATISTICS.

District No. 1.—Prudential Committee, Pearl Atwood.
 Teachers: Summer and Fall, Miss Emma M. Gage; Winter, Mr. Frank L. Baker, of Lowell. Whole number of scholars: Summer 29, Fall 28, Winter 29. Average attendance: Summer 26, Fall 25, Winter 24. Length of school in weeks: Summer 8, Fall 10, Winter 12. Wages of teachers per month, including board: Summer and Fall, \$32.00; Winter, \$45.00.

District No. 2.—Prudential Committee, F. A. Cutter. Teachers: Summer and Fall, Mrs. Rebecca A. Spear; Winter, Mr. Seth N. Gage, of Ascutneyville, Vt. Whole number of scholars: Summer 23, Fall 30, Winter 31. Average attendance: Summer 21, Fall 28, Winter 23. Length of school in weeks: Summer 9, Fall 9, Winter 12. Wages of teachers per month: Summer and Fall, \$32.00; Winter, \$45.00.

District No. 3.—Prudential Committee, James A. Foster. Teachers: Summer and Fall, Miss Maria L. Anderson, of Windham, N. H.; Winter, Mr. Edward N. Hills, of Lynn, Mass. Whole number of scholars: Summer 19, Fall 21, Winter 25. Average attendance: Summer 16, Fall 19, Winter 23. Length of school in weeks: Summer 9, Fall 10, Winter 12. Wages of teachers per month: Summer and Fall, \$30.00; Winter, \$40.00.

District No. 4.—Prudential Committee, Daniel B. Fox. Teachers: Summer and Fall, Miss Alice A. Woodbury; Winter, Mr. Sydney P. Gage. Whole number of scholars: Summer 24, Fall 24, Winter 32. Average attendance: Summer 22, Fall 22, Winter 28. Length of school in weeks: Summer 9, Fall 8, Winter 12. Wages of teachers per month: Summer and Fall, \$32.00; Winter, \$45.00.

District No. 5. Prudential Committee, Granville B. Carrier. Teachers: Summer and Fall, Miss Loretta R. Burgin, of Salem, N. H.; Winter, Mrs. Loretta R. Richardson (*nee* Burgin). Whole number of scholars: Summer 19, Fall 21, Winter 28. Average attendance: Summer 18, Fall 17, Winter 24. Length of school in weeks: Summer 9, Fall 9, Winter 12. Wages of teachers per month: Summer, \$32.00; Fall, \$34.00; Winter, \$40.00.

District No. 6.—Prudential Committee, Jonas Keyes. Teacher, Miss Clara A. Keyes. Whole number of scholars

5. Average attendance, 3. Length of school in weeks, 15.
Wages of teacher per month, \$28.00.

The whole number of scholars in town reported by teachers, attending school not less than two weeks, was 170 ; boys 92, girls 78. Number of children in town between five and fifteen years of age, not attending school : Summer and Fall 11, Winter 22. The whole amount expended for schools, the past year, has been \$1567.02 ; amount to each scholar, \$9.22 ; average wages of teachers per month, including board, \$35.06. Number of visits by Prudential Committees, 13 ; by Superintending Committee, 45 ; by citizens, 179. It appears from the foregoing statistics that the average wages of teachers have been reduced eighty-one cents per month from last year. The number of visitors at the closing examinations has been unusually large, the past year.

CONDITION OF SCHOOL-HOUSES.

In my report last year I said that our school-houses were a credit to the town ; and this year I wish to call the attention of the citizens to the fact that there seems to be a spirit of vandalism rife among our scholars. All of our school-houses, except No. 6, show positive marks of violence and ill-treatment, and none more so than the new and beautiful house in District No. 4. I suggest that the houses all be put in perfect repair, and that by-laws be enacted and enforced in each District, requiring any mark of defacement to be repaired at the expense of the one who did it.

TEXT BOOKS.

During the last year I caused a change to be made in the reading books ; and I think the increased interest

manifested in this branch of education will compensate the parents for the expense incurred. I was much pleased with the readiness with which the change was made.

We have other books in use that should, in my judgment, give place to new and more concise text books. We have in use in our schools six kinds of text books in arithmetic, three mental and three written. In my judgment these should all be embraced in a series of three books. Our best educators are of the opinion that mental and written arithmetic should be commenced and taught together; and I can see no reason why a child should spend five or six years upon mental arithmetic and then commence and go over precisely the same ground in written.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

We have laws upon our statute books requiring all children between five and fifteen years of age to attend school. I am not sure but it would be well to have legislation go still further and compel them to study when they get to school. It is very evident to me that in this town there is a chance for improvement somewhere. I have changed my opinion somewhat, in relation to the reason why our scholars accomplish so little. It is very apparent, that until we have more interest manifested by the parents, in looking after what their children are doing in school, our money will be mostly spent in vain. It would hardly seem possible that we should have scholars in our schools that nearly waste term after term, and in fact accomplish almost nothing in the line of a good education. I suggest to every parent that they find out what their own children (not their neighbors') are doing in school. It is not possible for a teacher to make a scholar do his full duty, unless backed up by the parents.

The common or town school, at best, can furnish but the rudiments of an education—the foundation for a building of future years; and as there are no years so important to us in all our lives as those of youth, they should be used to the greatest possible advantage. Therefore it is my earnest desire that every opportunity, in and out of school, should be used for the scholars' improvement, and that our schools should be taken for just what they are—only means assisting towards a fulfilment of a parent's duty to fit a child for practical life beyond the school days. Practice and application of what is taught at school, to be made most available, must be urged and illustrated at home, where it is necessary the scholars should be kept up to the mark of their duty.

It is to be hoped that these few suggestions will obtain for the teachers a due consideration for their labors, and induce parents to do justice to themselves and the children, while they exact it from others, and unite in all efforts for this purpose.

In concluding, fellow-citizens, let us try and do all we can to maintain the usefulness of our schools; for, surely, the Public School System is the surest safeguard of the Republic; and whoever shall attempt to weaken its influence or alienate its usefulness or efficiency, is the nation's worst enemy.

Respectfully submitted,

FREDERIC A. CUTTER,

Superintending School Committee.

PELHAM, March 8, 1876.