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Annual Report of the Selectmen, Treasurer and Supervisor of Schools of the Town of Orrington for the Year 1897-1898

Town of Orrington, Maine

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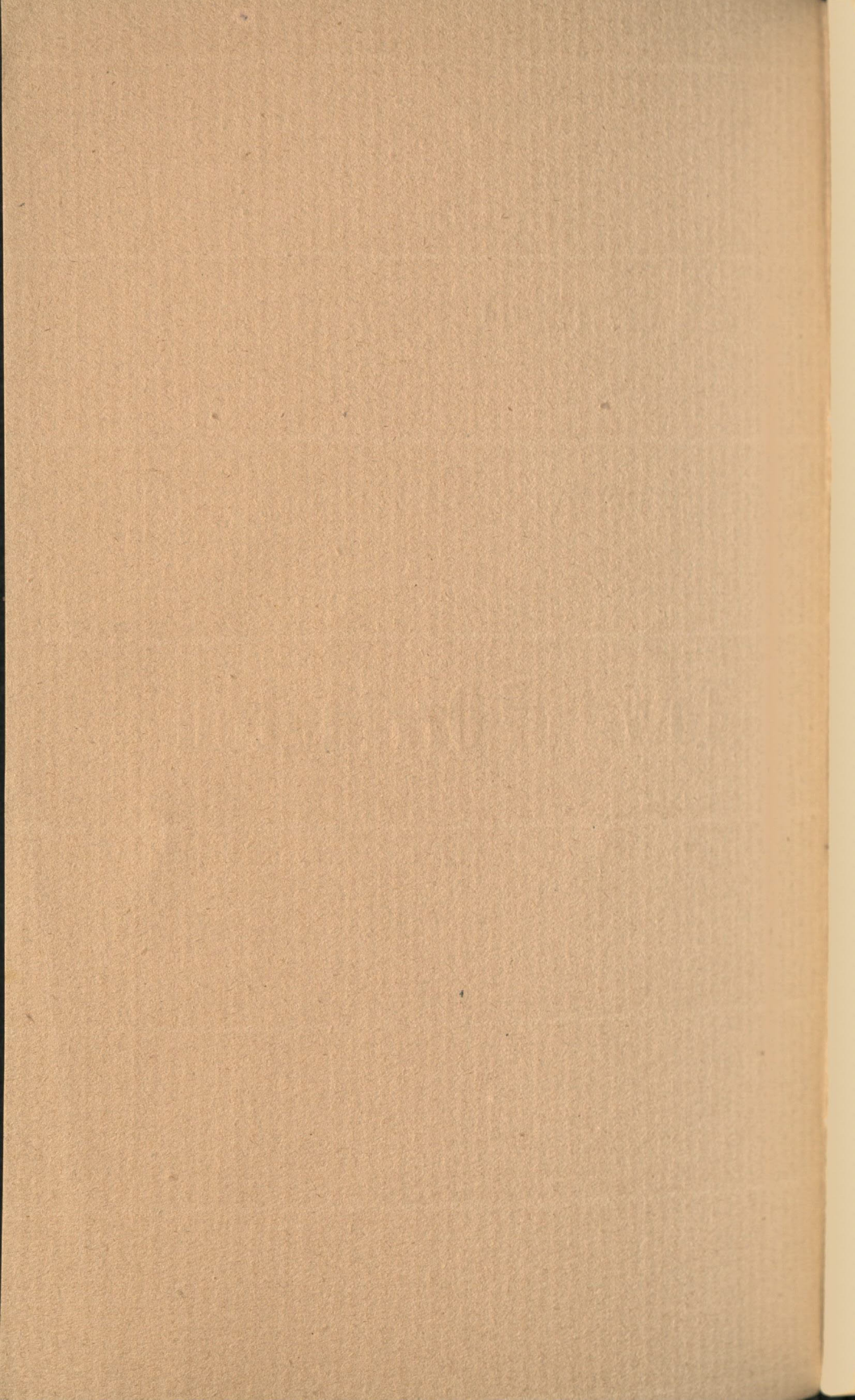
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REPORT OF THE
SELECTMEN, TREASURER
AND
SUPERVISOR OF SCHOOLS
OF THE
Town of Orrington
FOR THE YEAR 1897-98.



BANGOR:
CHAS. H. GLASS & CO., PRINTERS.
1898.



WARRANT.

TO ALBERT M. HARRIMAN, a Constable of the Town of Orrington,
in the County of Penobscot,

GREETING :

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town of Orrington qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to assemble at the Town House in said town on Monday, the fourteenth day of March inst., at ten o'clock in the forenoon, to act on the following articles, to wit :

First—To choose a Moderator to preside.

Second—To choose a Clerk for the ensuing year.

Third—To act on the Report of the Selectmen.

Fourth—To act on the Report of the Supervisor of Schools.

Fifth—To act on the Report of the Board of Health.

Sixth—To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year, including a Road Commissioner and Superintendent of Schools.

Seventh—To grant and raise money for the support of schools, the poor, the repair of roads and bridges, and repair of school houses and to defray all other town charges.

Eighth—To see if the town will support one or more High Schools and raise money for the same.

Ninth—To see if the town will grant and raise a sum of money for Memorial purposes.

Tenth—To fix the compensation of the Collector of Taxes.

Eleventh—(By request)—To see if the town will pay their School Committee and fix their compensation.

Twelfth—(By request)—To see if the town will vote to unite with some other towns in the employment of a Supervisor of Schools and raise money for that purpose.

Thirteenth—To see if the town will instruct some one to look after the grave-stones which have fallen down in the different cemeteries in town (where there are no relatives to see to them) and provide money for the same.

Fourteenth—To see if the town will accept the road as laid out by the Selectmen, leading from near Washburn's Corner to Brewer's Pond, and raise money for the same.

Fifteenth—To see if the town will give the Selectmen any instruction with regard to the W. F. Knox notes.

Sixteenth—To see if the town will accept the list of Jurors as revised by the Municipal Officers.

Seventeenth—(By request)—To see if the town will abate the tax on the Loud property for the year 1897, and exempt the same from taxation hereafter.

Eighteenth—(By request)—To see if the town will purchase of John O. Gould a piece of land in rear of the School House in District No. 4, at a cost of twenty dollars.

Nineteenth—To see if the town will instruct the Selectmen in regard to letting and care of the Town House.

Twentieth—To see if the town will give the Selectmen any instruction with regard to the Damon place and act thereon.

The Selectmen will be in session for the purpose of revising the list of voters at nine o'clock in the forenoon on the day of said meeting.

Given under our hands at Orrington, this third day of March, A. D. 1898.

N. A. NICKERSON, } Selectmen
A. M. HARRIMAN, } of
H. J. NICKERSON, } Orrington.

ANNUAL REPORT.

ALBERT G. DOLE,

In account with the TOWN OF ORRINGTON.

DR.

February 23, 1897.

To uncollected non-resident tax.....	\$351 29
Uncollected resident tax.....	220 81
3 notes of Wm. F. Knox.....	150 00
Cash in Treasury.....	517 72
	\$1,239 82

AMOUNT RAISED BY THE TOWN MARCH 8, 1897.

For schools	\$1,300 00
Support of poor	700 00
School books.....	200 00
Repair of school property	250 00
Pay of town officers.....	400 00
Miscellaneous expenses.....	300 00
Memorial purposes.....	25 00
Cemetery fence.....	100 00
Gravel in Dist. No. 1	200 00
Repairs of roads and bridges.....	500 00
Raised March 29 for new school.....	500 00
	\$4,475 00
State tax for 1897	1,145 60
County tax for 1897	527 46
Overlayings in assessments	192 55
Highway deficiency for 1896	109 79
Supplementary tax.....	3 00
	1,978 40
Cash for highway tax	121 39
For sale of school house in Dist. No 7.....	100 00
For sale of cemetery lot	20 00
Dog license of 1896 refunded by the State	55 55
Cash from John Massey's estate	67 01
Received from the State for free High school.....	62 50
For sale of school house in Dist. No. 4.....	20 00
Received from the State for the burial of George Lawrence	35 00
For sale of old stove	1 00

Cash from the State for R. R. and telegraph tax...	16 17	
From the State, school fund and mill tax.....	816 74	
Cash from John McCobb's estate.....	25 00	
Cash from J. F. McCobb.....	5 00	
Cash from hay on the Damon place	20 00	
Rent of Town Hall.....	5 00	
From E. H. Baker for burial lot at So. Orrington..	5 00	
		<hr/> 1,375 36
Total		<hr/> \$9,068 58

CR.

By amount of orders paid.....	\$7,806 68	
Uncollected resident tax.....	270 26	
Uncollected non-resident tax	387 71	
3 notes of W. F. Knox.....	150 00	
Cash in the Treasury	453 93	
		<hr/> \$9,068 58

PAY OF TOWN OFFICES.

J. D. Hinds, Constable.....	\$ 2 00	
J. Wyman Phillips, Supt. of Schools for 1896-7.....	117 65	
J. Wyman Phillips, Supt. of Schools in part for 1897.....	38 86	
N. A. Nickerson, Selectman, Assessor, Overseer of Poor.....	106 00	
A. M. Harriman, same.....	89 50	
H. J. Nickerson, same.....	54 27	
A. G. Dole, Treasurer	40 00	
J. E. Bowden, Collector	125 00	
		<hr/> \$573 28

SUPPORT OF POOR.

Town of Hampden for support of J. F. McCobb.....	\$ 5 00	
Town of Atkinson for support of Mrs. Perkins	104 00	
Town of Atkinson for clothing of Mrs. Perkins.....	8 53	
Mrs. Kate Woodman, support and care of John L. Brown...	134 50	
E. P. Richardson, support and care of E. Appleton.....	174 25	
Mrs. A. L. Howard, care of Salome Appleton	45 00	
S. D. Nickerson, house rent for Mrs. J. F. McCobb.....	9 00	
W. and F. A. Dillingham for supplies to same.....	19 71	
N. A. Nickerson for supplies to same	5 38	
Mrs. H. M. Damon for support of child	35 00	
A. W. King for care of K. Stubbs for one year	25 00	
E. W. Rogers, supplies to K. Stubbs	9 97	
E. W. Rogers, supplies to J. L. Brown	3 68	

Dr. G. B. Tibbetts, medical attendance on the town's poor from June 15, 1896, to Jan. 1, 1898:	
To Joseph D. Freeman	31 00
To Mrs. McCobb and child.....	2 75
To John L. Brown	13 50
	<hr/>
	\$626 27
N. A. Nickerson for the burial of George Lawrence, an hon- orably discharged soldier.....	35 00

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

G. G. Hodgdon, Surveyor, and others, winter '96-7	\$17 49
David Scott, " " " " "	12 64
Amasa Smith, " " " " "	10 02
M. Hoben, " " " " "	10 12
Joseph W. Foster, " " " " "	16 65
James Spratt, labor on road	1 05
E. J. Jameson, " " " " "	5 83
W. G. Freeman, Surveyor, and others, winter '96-7	8 40
H. M. Rogers, " " " " "	16 17
A. G. Dole, " " " " "	13 50
John O. Gould, material for repairing bridge.....	2 00
Herbert E. Thayer, Surveyor, and others.....	24 67
E. Glass, " " " " "	14 91
S. L. Rogers, " " " " "	4 00
H. P. Marston, labor on the road	5 40
S. L. Rogers, labor in Dist. No. 1.....	4 00
G. G. Hodgdon, " " " 7, W.....	2 50
George A. Lambert, labor on the road and machine.....	2 30
H. M. Rogers, Surveyor	3 85
James B. Severance for gravel.....	4 35
Charles A. Bayard " "	2 00
H. M. Rogers, Surveyor	2 10
Joseph W. Bowden, Surveyor, labor and material	15 15
W. N. Hatch for labor in 1896	4 00
A. M. Harriman, labor on culvert.....	3 70
Thomas Bowden, labor in 1896-7.....	2 45
C. A. Severance, Surveyor.....	9 56
G. C. Rogers, plank and timber for bridges	16 52
E. Glass, Surveyor	3 96
E. Johnston, labor on the road.....	6 36
R. E. Dunham, " "	4 97
M. Hoben, Surveyor.....	36 04
C. Holmes, labor on the road	3 51

W. R. Gifford, plank for bridges.....	5 30
A. A. Young, labor on the road.....	3 03
H. N. Mann, " ".....	3 67
M. T. Phillips, " ".....	4 05

 \$306 22

A. G. Dole for gravel in Dist. No. 1.....	210 98
Blasting ledge:	
W. E. Bowden, labor and material.....	65 95
Charles W. Atwood for labor.....	31 65
J. W. Bowden ".....	28 65
M. Hoben ".....	14 55
Wm. B. Hoxie ".....	7 80
S. S. Harriman ".....	4 10
A. B. Miles ".....	3 00
M. A. Rogers ".....	3 75
Leland Blake ".....	68
Samuel M. Young for wood used in blasting.....	1 00
Rice & Miller for Atlas powder, fuse and caps.....	22 39

 \$183 52

S. L. Rogers and A. M. Harriman for building abutment to Powers' bridge and repairs.....	140 00
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MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

J. D. Hinds, care of tramps.....	\$ 1 10
Charles H. Glass & Co. for printing town reports.....	25 00
E. A. Hincks for memorial expenses.....	20 00
H. W. Mayo, service as referee on McCobb case.....	4 00
J. D. Baker for same.....	1 75
S. L. Rogers, labor in Oak Hill cemetery.....	3 00
W. S. Perkins for lighting street while repairing bridge.....	1 45
A. E. Freeman, labor in So. Orrington cemetery.....	7 87
A. G. Dole, fees paid to Justice of Peace.....	25
E. L. Bowden, grading at Oak Hill cemetery.....	10 00
Almon Rogers, repairs on town pump and guide board.....	5 30
G. B. Tibbetts, services as committee on school house.....	3 00
G. B. Tibbetts, Secretary of Board of Health two and one-half years.....	12 50
G. B. Tibbetts, reporting 29 births and 23 deaths in 1896-7....	13 00
C. A. Woodard for counsel.....	5 00
B. Bugbee & Co. for books, stationery, etc.....	4 68
T. H. Crowell, care of town house and repairs.....	6 50
John E. Bowden, Collector, abatement of taxes for 1896.....	21 72

A. N. Lufkin, services as Committee on school house	13 50
N. A. Nickerson, postage and express	3 20
A. G. Dole for interest paid on money hired	8 10
Frank Bierce, abatement for 1897	1 50
	<hr/>
	\$172 42

FOR NEW SCHOOL HOUSE AT EAST ORRINGTON.

J. H. Maker, contractor and builder	\$797 75
“ “ for building portico	20 00
“ “ for putting down seats	9 00
J. A. Perkins for grading lot	25 00
Prescott Furniture Co. for furniture and seats	131 55
C. W. Freeman for surveying school house lot	1 00
	<hr/>
	\$984 30
Wm. A. George for school house lot	100 00

FOR REBUILDING CEMETERY FENCE.

Morse & Co., material for fence	\$22 50
A. M. Harriman, “ “	17 52
“ “ for labor	41 49
	<hr/>
	\$ 81 51
Support of schools	2,235 22
Repairs and furnishings on school property	290 91
For school books	193 99
	<hr/>
	\$2,720 12
A. G. Dole for State tax for 1897	1,145 60
“ “ for County tax for 1897	527 46

AMOUNT RAISED BY THE TOWN MARCH 8, 1897.

For schools	\$1,300 00
Support of poor	700 00
School books	200 00
Repair of school houses	250 00
Town officers	400 00
Miscellaneous expenses	300 00
Memorial purposes	25 00
Graveyard fence	100 00
Hauling gravel in Dist. No. 1	200 00
Repairs of roads and bridges	500 00
Building school house in Dist. No. 7, March 29,	500 00
	<hr/>
	\$4,475 00

03	State tax for 1897	1,145 60	
02	County tax for 1897	527 46	
01	Overlayings in assessments	192 55	
00	Supplementary tax	3 00	
			<u>1,868 61</u>

24 2713 Total assessments for 1897..... \$6,343 61

VALUATION FOR 1897.

Real estate of residents taxed	\$259,790 00	
Personal estate of residents taxed	63,175 00	
		<u>\$322,965 00</u>
Real estate of non-residents taxed	49,530 00	
Personal estate of non-residents taxed	1,085 00	
		<u>50,615 00</u>
Total estates taxed		<u>\$373,580 00</u>

Number of polls, 343. Poll tax, \$3.00.

Percentage, \$1.42 on \$100.00.

SCHOOL FUND FOR 1897.

Raised by the town March 8, 1897	\$1,300 00
State school fund and mill tax	816 74
Interest on town school fund	69 42
Balance due the schools February 23, 1897	62 15
	<u>\$2,248 31</u>

ASSETS OF THE TOWN.

Uncollected taxes	\$657 90
Three notes of Wm. F. Knox	150 00
Money in Treasury	453 93
	<u>\$1,261 83</u>

LIABILITIES OF THE TOWN.

Estimated bills against the town including snow bills	\$500 00
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ESTIMATES FOR 1898.

For schools	\$1,300 00
Support of poor	700 00
Pay of town officers	600 00
Miscellaneous expenses	300 00
Roads and bridges	1,500 00

Respectfully submitted,

N. A. NICKERSON, } Selectmen
A. M. HARRIMAN, } of
H. J. NICKERSON, } Orrington.

Orrington, March 2d, 1898.

Report of Secretary of Board of Health.

Again has our town been favored by an almost complete absence of contagious diseases for the year, only one family having had diphtheria and two others having cases of scarlatina. In each of these three families such precautions have been taken that no spread of the disease has occurred.

The parents in every case have been very willing to conform to the requirements of the Board of Health and do all in their power to keep the disease confined to their own family. It is on this line that the most effective work can and should be done. Let every parent be willing to suffer inconvenience and trial, for a season, doing as they would be done by, and then the work of the Board of Health would be practically limited to instructing the public what to do and how to do it.

In the matter of prevention of disease, both contagious and otherwise, very few in any community realize the importance of cleanliness, especially of our cellars. How few cellars there are that contain adequate means for ventilation, only those who look into the matter know, but what they lack in ventilation they make up in decaying vegetables, fruit, etc., a more fruitful source of disease than which does not exist.

Who can wonder that the tender little children get weak and sickly, when compelled to live in an atmosphere, every breath of which is loaded with foul odors and germs of disease? Keep clean, then, for the children's sake, who have to depend on us for their health.

Another matter of prevention which is much neglected is vaccination. Every person in every community should be vaccinated at least once in every five years, and oftener if it does not "take." The State provides by law for the free vaccination, by the local Board of Health, of all persons over two years of age, in every town, yearly. I would earnestly recommend that all avail themselves of the opportunity to thus protect themselves from a loathsome and life-destroying disease.

G. B. TIBBETTS, M. D.,
Sec. Board of Health.

Orrington, March 2, 1898.

Report of the Superintendent of Schools.

STATISTICS.

SUMMER SCHOOLS.

FALL SCHOOLS.

No. of Dist.	Length in Weeks.	No. Registered.	Average Attendance.	Wages per Week.	No. of Dist.	Length in Weeks.	No. Registered.	Average Attendance.	Wages per Week.
1	9	30	25	\$6 00	1	9	20	18	\$7 00
2	9	30	26	8 00	2	9	28	27	8 00
3	9	16	14	6 00	3	9	14	13	6 00
4	9	39	36	9 00	4	9	46	41	9 00
5	9	10	8	6 00	5	9	18	14	7 00
6	9	23	20	6 50	6	9	23	21	6 50
7	9	25	23	8 00	7	9	23	21	8 00
8	9	12	11	7 00	8	9	13	12	6 00
9	9	8	7	6 00	9	9	8	7	6 00
10	9	8	7	6 00	Corner	9	32	31	8 00
Corner	9	30	25	7 00					

WINTER SCHOOLS.

1	8	24	18	\$8 00	6	8	23	17	\$7 00
2	8	25	20	10 00	7	8	23	20	9 00
3	8	13	12	6 50	8	8	12	9	7 00
4*	8	25	21	10 00	9	8	10	9	6 00
4†	8	18	17	2 50	Corner	8	29	27	10 00
5	8	15	11	7 00					

* Grammar. † Primary.

Number of scholars in town	337
Registered in summer schools	231
Average in summer schools	202
Registered in fall schools	225
Average in fall schools	205
Registered in winter schools	217
Average in winter schools	181
Number of terms	32
Average length of term in weeks	8.4
Average wages of females including board	\$6.88
Average wages of males including board	8.30
Per cent. of attendance in summer	.685
Per cent. of average attendance in summer	.600
Per cent. of attendance in fall	.667
Per cent. of average attendance in fall	.608
Per cent. of attendance in winter	.644
Per cent. of average attendance in winter	.537
Per cent. of average attendance for the year	.582

PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDS, 1897.

Balance due Feb. 23, 1897.....	\$ 62 15	
Raised by town March 8.....	1,300 00	
Interest on town school fund	69 42	
State fund and mill tax	816 74	
	<hr/>	\$2,248 31
Paid teachers in summer.....	679 50	
Fall	643 50	
Winter.....	664 00	
	<hr/>	1,987 00
Paid for conveyance.....	57 00	
Cleaning	23 75	
Janitors	67 50	
Fuel	97 17	
	<hr/>	2,232 42
Balance		<hr/> \$15 89

REPAIRS AND FURNISHINGS.

Balance from last year.....	\$125 06	
Appropriated	250 00	
	<hr/>	\$375 06
Expended		270 98
		<hr/> \$104 08

SCHOOL BOOKS.

Balance from last year.....	\$ 72 71	
Appropriated	200 00	
	<hr/>	\$272 71
Expended.....		193 99
		<hr/> \$78 72

District No. 1.

SPRING TERM. Soon after closing this successful term, Miss Mabel E. Dole was married. Whether or not to continue the art of teaching, is not a matter of record.

FALL AND WINTER. Miss Nellie F. Appleton. These terms were well conducted; but the low speaking detracted much from an interesting appearance of the school. The pupils were orderly and deferential. Truancy in this district is becoming chronic, and, it seems to me, without sufficient reason. It was a serious hindrance to the highest success of the school and a just cause of complaint by the teacher.

District No. 2.

The school was under the instruction of Mr. Henry C. Wright for the year, and controlled without much apparent effort. A decided improvement in reading and tone of voice was evident. Arithmetic received good attention and the success attained was creditable to all concerned.

District No. 3.

SPRING AND FALL TERMS. Miss Mary A. Pendleton, Teacher. The instruction was quite exact, but mild in enforcement. The school made gradual and safe advance to the end.

WINTER TERM. Miss Annie E. Johnson continued the school nearly on the same lines of work as the preceding terms but with more resolution. The school is small and easily governed; but taxes the patience of any teacher to draw out a clear statement of the lessons pursued.

District No. 4.

SPRING AND FALL TERMS. Mrs. Blanche K. Blake conducted this school with her usual success. Knowing its capacities and needs, she adapted her instruction accordingly and her labor was appreciated. In evidence, during the latter term twenty-one pupils were not absent one-half day.

WINTER TERM—Grammar—Miss Ella B. Munro, Teacher. The necessary change of teachers at this period of the school proved disappointing. This change was so radical in respect of manner and method as early to cause coolness towards the teacher, and later to a dislike, which was more particularly manifested by a few leaving the school. The day of the closing examination was very stormy and travelling bad; but few were present. These few, however, did themselves credit in every exercise and showed they had been thoroughly taught to the extent claimed. Miss Munro came well recommended. In answer to a personal inquiry of the Superintendent of Schools of the town where she taught the High School the year previous, she was highly commended as a teacher. She is a thorough scholar, of broad culture and ready to instruct. Had the many good scholars in this school been a little more charitable of any apparent want of interest or sympathy for themselves, I believe they could have made it of much more profit. Under the present system of our public schools we must ignore many things not compatible to our own wishes.

PRIMARY. Miss Alida M. Wentworth. It was thought advisable to have this department during the winter. It was a pleasant and profitable school; the Mental Arithmetic did quite well in numbers.

District No. 5.

SPRING TERM. Miss Lois P. Hatch. This was a small school but showed large proficiency for so short a term. The recitations were well conducted and interesting.

FALL AND WINTER TERMS. Mr. John Quimby was here introduced to the teacher's profession and showed himself a good workman. Well informed for his work, he successfully and profitably taught those under his care. The scholars from District No. 10 were united with this school, making it much more interesting than formerly and proving that in unity there is strength.

District No. 6.

Miss Mildred F. Eldridge, teacher. It is clearly evident that it was profitable to retain this teacher through the year. Knowing where the scholars were left at the close, she knew just where to place them at the beginning of each term, thus economizing time for work on new ground. Good order prevailed and satisfactory progress was made. The recitations were clear and methodical; the topic stated, the divisions and subdivisions were given successively by the class without tedious and dilatory interrogatories by the teacher. At the final examination of the fall term every scholar was present.

District No. 7.

Mrs. Jennie S. George continued in the school for the year, with her usual success. I can add nothing to the commendatory report of last year that will increase the public confidence in her as a teacher. The school was quiet, easily managed and progressive. The scholars are of a younger grade than in some schools and few of the higher branches are pursued.

District No. 8.

SPRING TERM. Miss Myra F. Vickery taught in her usual intelligent manner. She leaves teaching for a time to complete her course at Wellesley College.

FALL AND WINTER TERMS. Miss Alice S. Genn proved acceptable to this school and in many ways advanced its interests. Some trivial faults, wholly unintentional, were manifest and attention called to them, which, I have no doubt, will be a sufficient corrective.

District No. 9.

Miss Josephine M. King, Teacher. This school is favored in one respect certainly, for it can claim and receive from the teacher all the aid needed, without trespassing upon her time. Few in numbers, of a kindred spirit, the year showed a marked advancement. This was quickly seen at my last brief visits.

District No. 10.

SPRING TERM. Miss Hattie R. Mann. The few attending this school did quite well. The habit of studying is yet to be acquired. A single term only was held in this district, the scholars being conveyed to No. 5 the remainder of the year.

Corner District.

SPRING TERM. Miss Annie L. Nickerson. Efficient work was done by both parties, and the school made satisfactory progress. The instruction was quite technical and the illustrations practical.

FALL AND WINTER. Mr. James Brooks. The engagement of Mr. Brooks for this school was a guaranty of its success. Fresh from his collegiate studies, he easily mastered the wants of the school and illumined its routine exercises by lateral facts and instructive incidents of current events. Language exercises, map-drawing in colors, and bookkeeping must be commended.

I feel quite safe in saying that our schools, with a single exception, have passed a very quiet and profitable year. Unity of purpose characterized their general movements and the older scholars, especially, appeared more appreciative of the high privileges offered them in our public schools. The principal hindrance to their higher attainment has been irregular attendance; especially has this been the case during the winter. No doubt this may be accounted for, in part, by the inclement weather; but you will see by the table of statistics that only a fraction over fifty per cent. of our scholars are constant attendants at school. Urgent efforts by teachers and myself have been made to overcome this wasteful and evil habit of truancy, but without much apparent success. The Truant Officer has twice been called to exercise his authority and remedy this defect. The results, however, of his good efforts were but temporary and the same laxity continued. I am confident that drastic measures must be used in a few cases before the law of compulsory attendance at school is complied with.

Quite extensive repairs have been made on school buildings. The houses in Nos. 5 and 9 were thoroughly renewed inside, four painted outside and three inside. All the furniture and seats have been well kept; by the closest examination I have failed to find any marks or scars thereon except a slight defacement in the Primary room. Scholars are more thoughtful now in this regard than in former years; owing in part, perhaps, to the fact that I have held each perpetrator strictly accountable for his misdemeanor.

The new house at East Orrington is admirably adapted to its purpose. The single seating has greatly reduced the labor of discipline and contributed to the scholars' comfort. The basement, however, is very damp, by reason of the constant drainage from the westerly side. This should be remedied at once to avoid the moisture which is disseminated over the whole building and, I fear, will prove deleterious to health.

The house at the Corner needs quite extensive repairs inside and on the foundation; the outbuildings must be renewed. In this connection, I recommend that the room in No. 6 be reseated with single seats and in such a way as to convene a centrally located Free High School. The scholars in this school have patiently borne the torture of stiff wooden chairs and high desks long enough and should be relieved from such medieval thralldom.

A written examination of candidates for teaching was held in the fall, and I surmise some astonishment was manifested at the rank obtained. This was somewhat *pro forma*, but an earnest of what may be expected, for teachers must study for the times as well as scholars, and must submit either to the State or local written examinations.

While these teachers have labored faithfully in their line of work, of course they are not above criticism, nor do they profess to know more than all others, but are grateful for kindly correction. I suggest this correction in the apparent loose manner of their doing some work: *i. e.*, in the loose and prolix manner of questions and answers when the text book is not in hand. It is an art to properly put a question and it requires knowledge to properly answer it. That knowledge, generally so far as concerns the lesson in hand, can be obtained from the book and the scholar is supposed to have it—the knowledge—when in the class room; and, when called upon, to give it intelligently, or in the language of the book; in other words to give a technical answer, to give *the* answer and not muddle into others. To illustrate:

Question—What is the equator?

Answer—A long line going round the earth.

Question—Where is the Island of Cuba?

Answer—Well, its somewhere near the Carribbean Sea.

Question—What is a fraction?

Answer—It is a part of a number.

Question—Define mode.

Answer—It tells how to do anything.

Question—Define time.

Answer—It tells when to do anything.

While the above answers show some general idea of correctness, they are not technical as they should be, but really are far from the truth. Now we expect pupils to make mistakes and can pardon them for blundering mistakes, but for teachers to allow such loose and pernicious habits to foister themselves upon our schools should be carefully avoided.

I wish further to illustrate how some instructors unreasonably burden themselves. A class in grammar is called and the teacher asks the following questions seriatim, which are correctly answered. What is a noun? How many properties have nouns? What is person? How many persons are there? Define the first person. Define the second person. Define the third person. What is number? How many numbers have nouns? What does the singular number denote? What does the plural number denote? What is gender? How many genders have nouns? What does the masculine gender denote? and so on *ad libitum* to the end of the lesson, when I knew perfectly well the class could have gone through the entire exercise by a simple request. Now these are fac similes of exercises which happily are not of frequent occurrence, I am glad to say, but are brought to notice as before indicated for correction. Such trivial catechising is entirely useless, prodigal of time and tends to throw the burden of the exercise upon the teacher rather than the student, where it rightfully belongs.

As a rule, I have been present on the day of the closing examination when requested by the teacher, and it always gives me great pleasure to meet the friends of the school on such occasions.

In closing this report I thank the citizens of the town, and especially the School Committee, for their co-operation and counsel in the duties I have endeavored faithfully to perform; and again urge them to visit the schools they so willingly and liberally maintain.

J. WYMAN PHILLIPS,

Superintendent.

ORRINGTON, March 4, 1898.

