

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN, TOWN TREASURER, AUDITORS,

AND

Superintending School Committee

OF THE

Town of Pelham,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1st, 1875.

LOWELL, MASS.:

STONE, HUSE & CO., BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS, No. 130 CENTRAL STREET,
1875.

REPORT.

THE undersigned, Selectmen of the Town of Pelham, respectfully submit the following Report:

PAY OF TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Nathan Gage, bill for services as Selectman and use of horse, for the year ending March 10, 1874.	\$126 00
George H. Currier, bill for services as Selectman and use of horse, for the year ending March 10, 1874,	18 00
Daniel Marshall, bill for services as Selectman, use of horse, and cash paid out, for the year ending March 10, 1874.	112 50
John Woodbury, for services as Town Treasurer, for the year ending March 10, 1874.	40 00
Dr. Amos Bachelder, for services as Town Clerk, for the year ending March 10, 1874.	30 00
Frederic A. Cutter, for services as Superintending School Committee, for the year ending March 10, 1874.	40 00
George H. Currier, for services as Collector of Taxes, for the year ending March 10, 1874.	85 00
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	\$451 50

TOWN PAUPERS.

Paid Alpheus Goodwin, for board of Mrs. Rachel McCoy, from March 1, 1874, to October 21, thirty-three and one-half weeks, @ \$2.00.	\$67 00
for board of Samuel P. White.	33 54
Daniel Marshall, for cash paid out for medical attendance, and balance of funeral expenses of Calvin Keyes.	11 00
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	\$111 54
Aid furnished transient persons, for the year ending March 1, 1874.	
Paid Daniel Marshall.	\$10 50
George H. Currier.	3 00
Charles W. Hobbs.	3 00
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	16 50
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Total.	\$128 04

Aid furnished County paupers, which has been paid by the County.

Paid James A. Foster, for goods delivered Orendal Burt, Mr. Latouch.....	\$6 23	
Daniel Marshall, aid to George Loon.....	3 00	
Mr. Latouch.....	3 00	
George H. Currier, aid, George Loon.....	15 00	
Frenchman.....	10 00	
John Richardson, for digging two graves.....	8 00	
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		\$48 23

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Paid John Woodbury, Commissioner in School Dist. No. 1,	\$211 48	
Joseph Marsh, for District No. 2.....	257 85	
Ezekiel G. Hobbs, " " 3.....	252 19	
Nelson Webster, " " 4.....	300 00	
George H. Currier, " " 5.....	277 41	
Warren Sherburne, " " 6.....	65 25	
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Total.....		\$1,364 18
Balance due District No. 1.....	\$63 52	
2.....	17 15	
3.....	12 81	
5.....	22 59	
6.....	19 75	
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		\$135 82

SCHOOL MONEY.

Paid District No. 1, balance of Town appropriation for 1873.....	\$148 75	
Part of Town appropriation for 1874....	131 15	
Dog fund.....	23 17	
Literary fund.....	11 53	
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		\$314 60
District No. 2, balance of Town appropriation for 1873.....	\$198 37	
Part of Town appropriation for 1874....	84 94	
Dog fund.....	23 16	
Literary fund.....	16 53	
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		323 00
Paid District No. 3, balance of Town appropriation for 1873.....	\$201 62	
Part of Town appropriation for 1874....	5 10	
Dog fund.....	23 17	
Literary fund.....	11 53	
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		241 42
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Amount carried forward.....		\$879 02

Amount brought forward.....		\$879 02
District No. 4, balance of Town appropriation for 1873.....	\$157 07	
Part of Town appropriation for 1874....	90 17	
Dog fund.....	23 16	
Literary fund.....	16 03	
		<u>286 43</u>
District No. 5, balance of Town appropriation for 1873.....	\$157 73	
Part of Town appropriation for 1874....	83 25	
Dog fund.....	23 17	
Literary fund.....	13 53	
		<u>277 68</u>
District No. 6, Town appropriation for 1874.....	\$97 50	
Dog fund.....	23 17	
Literary fund.....	3 06	
		<u>123 73</u>
Total.....		<u>\$1,566 86</u>
School Money due District No. 1.....	\$131 45	
2.....	177 66	
3.....	257 50	
4.....	172 43	
5.....	179 35	
		<u>\$918 39</u>

TOWN HOUSE.

Received for use of Town House, for the year ending March 1, 1875.....		\$93 50
Paid Thomas Gage, for one cord of wood....	\$ 6 00	
John Woodbury, for oil, lamps, wicks, chimneys, broom and glass.....	8 34	
Charles W. Hobbs, for opening and taking care of House.....	17 25	
		<u>31 59</u>
Balance of income.....		<u>\$61 91</u>

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

Eugene F. Titcomb, poll tax for 1871.....		\$ 3 08
John Richardson, part of " ".....		4 50
Philip Thistle, " " ".....		33
Eugene F. Titcomb, poll " 1872.....		1 35
David Carr, " " ".....		1 35
		<u>\$10 61</u>
Amount carried forward.....		\$10 61

Amount brought forward.....		\$10 61
Reuben P. Allen, poll tax for 1873.....		1 10
Henry Conrey, " " ".....		1 10
William H. Carr, " " ".....		1 10
Calvin Keyes, " " ".....		1 10
William Scott, " " ".....		1 10
John Roberts, " " ".....		1 10
B. B. Titecomb, " " ".....		1 10
Edmund Tenny, " " ".....		1 10
Edmund Tenny, dog " " ".....		1 00
Isaac W. Hall, " " ".....		1 54
Calvin Morse, " " ".....		2 61
William Hardy, " " ".....		1 18
Benj. F. Simpson, part of " " ".....		33 00
Michar Coburn, " " 1874.....		1 34
Alpheus G. Hobbs, dog " " ".....		1 00
James M. Hardy, " " ".....		1 00
Mr. Bradley, " " ".....		1 79
Jeremiah Farmer, highway " " ".....		5 18
John Carr, " " ".....		3 15
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		\$72 20

Non-resident highway tax paid in labor for the year 1873, 83 45

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

Paid principle on notes held against said Town the past year.....	\$2,180 89	
Interest on sundry notes against said Town, 362 96		
	<hr/>	\$2,543 85
Nathan Gage, bill for cash paid out for car fare, sta- tionery, printing, &c., for the year ending March 10, 1874.....		18 50
Stone, Huse & Co., for printing Town Report, War- rant and Check List.....		33 75
Daniel Coburn and Charles H. Carter, for clearing up East Graveyard.....		11 50
Alpheus G. Hobbs, for repair of road near Simpson's mill.....		2 50
Chas. L. Seavey, repair of bridge near Seavey's Mill,		12 00
Jonathan M. Atwood, for repair of plow in 1873....		3 00
Allen Young, for repair of Highways in 1873.....		1 93
Nelson Webster, for repair of highways in 1874....		14 94
Ezekiel G. Hobbs, for railing on Hutchinson bridge,		4 00
John Woodbury, driving hearse for the year ending March 1, 1874, 19 times.....		47 50
John Richardson, for laying wall on burying ground and making burial straps.....		1 50
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		\$2,694 97

AMOUNT OF TAXES ASSESSED FOR 1874.

State tax.....	\$1,612 00
County tax.....	913 23
School tax.....	1,410 50
Dog tax.....	91 00
Town tax.....	2,000 00
Highway tax.....	1,500 00
School-house tax, District No. 3.....	100 00
School-house tax, District No. 4.....	175 00
All overlays.....	214 49
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	\$8,016 22
Percentage upon \$1,000.....	\$9 50

HASTINGS FUND.

May 26, received of Walter Hastings, the executor of will of Caroline Hastings, and placed the same in the treasury of the Town..... \$3,519 11

GEORGE H. CURRIER, } *Selectmen*
 WILLIAM G. BUTLER, } *of*
 ALPHEUS G. HOBBS, } *Pelham.*

PELHAM, March 1, 1875.

TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT.

MARCH 1, 1875.

Feb. 28, 1874. Am't of cash in the hands of the Treasurer,	\$928 97
July 10, 1875. Received of Geo. H. Currier, Collector, the outstanding taxes for 1873, amounting to	710 67
Amount of interest received on the same,	13 11
Received of the Collector, for the year ending March 1, 1875.....	7,199 89
Received of the State Treasurer, the Sav- ings Bank tax, amounting to.....	664 49
Of the same, Railroad tax.....	67 17
Of the same, United States bounties....	96 00
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Amount carried forward.....	\$9,680 30

Amount brought forward.....	\$9,680 30
Received from the County of Hillsboro', for assistance rendered County paupers,	46 50
Received for three grave-yard lots.....	2 25
Received of the agent, for the use of the Town Hall during the past year.....	93 50
Received of M. L. Jones, for rent of the Libby House.....	10 50
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Total.....	\$9,833 05

The Treasnrer of said Town charges the same with the following disbursements as ordered by the Selectmen thereof:

To cash paid on sundry orders during the year ending March 1, 1875.....	\$9,046 06
March 1, 1875. Leaving a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of.....	786 99
March 1, 1875. Outstanding taxes now unpaid, or in the hands of the Collector.....	732 33

LITERARY FUND.

March 1, 1875. Cash in Treasury.....	\$72 52
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DOG TAX FUND.

March 1, 1875. Amount of cash in Treasury.....	\$84 00
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FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE TOWN.

Amount of debt March 1, 1874.....	\$5,700 00
Paid, heside interest, the past year.....	2,180 89
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March 1, 1875. The whole amount of Town debt.....	\$3,519 11

JOHN WOODBURY,

Town Treasurer.

We, the undersigned, a committee to audit and examine the books and accounts of the Selectmen and Treasurer of said Town, for the year ending March, 1875, report that we find them properly kept, and correctly vouched and cast.

CHARLES L. SEAVEY,
DANIEL MARSHALL,

Auditors.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE TOWN OF PELHAM,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 8TH, 1875.

IN compliance with the statutes of this State, I respectfully submit the following report of the condition of the Schools in this Town.

The Schools in town the past year have generally been prosperous. The attendance during the Summer and Fall Terms has been remarkably good. In the Winter Schools, owing to the unusually cold weather, and the prevalence of two epidemics, to which children are subject, the attendance has been very irregular.

I am happy to report that our School-houses are in good condition, and, considering our circumstances, are a credit to the Town. The citizens in District No. 4 have done nobly in grading and enclosing their School-grounds. I hope they will go still further, and beautify the grounds by the addition of a few trees. Trees not only furnish shade for the children, but also exert a refining influence over them.

The house in District No. 3 has been made neat and comfortable, at a very small expense, and the beauty of it

is, there have been no hard feelings stirred up, but all seem pleased with what has been done. I do not wish to convey the idea, that the house is a model school-house, but under the circumstances I think the right course has been followed.

The schools in Districts Nos. 2, 4 and 6, have each a globe. I would recommend that the other districts be furnished with them also, and that all the districts be furnished each with a clock and thermometer.

STATISTICS.

DISTRICT No. 1.

Prudential Committee, . . . Nathan S. Sleeper.

Teachers.—Summer and Fall, Miss Eliza H. Woodbury.
Winter, Miss Susan M. Smith.

Whole No. of scholars—Summer, 29 ; Fall, 32 ; Winter, 25.

Average attendance—Summer, 25 ; Fall, 30 ; Winter, 22.

Length of school in weeks—Summer, 9 ; Fall, 8 ; Winter, 10.

Wages of teachers, per month, including board—Summer and Fall, \$36.00 ; Winter, \$48.00.

DISTRICT No. 2.

Prudential Committee, . . . Otis G. Spear.

Teacher for the year.—Miss Mary A. Cloyd.

Whole No. of scholars—Summer, 26 ; Fall, 35 ; Winter, 34.

Average attendance—Summer, 23 ; Fall, 31 ; Winter, 28.

Length of school in weeks—Summer, 11 ; Fall, 8 ; Winter, 12.

Wages of teachers, per month—Summer and Fall, \$32.00 ; Winter, \$48.00.

DISTRICT No. 3.

Prudential Committee, . Charles H. Wyman.

Teachers.—Summer and Fall, Miss Ella J. Burns, of Windham. Winter, Miss Maria Anderson, of Windham.

Whole No. of scholars—Summer, 16 ; Fall, 19 ; Winter, 16.

Average attendance—Summer, 14 ; Fall, 15 ; Winter, 14.

Length of school in weeks—Summer, 9 ; Fall, 9 ; Winter, 12.

Wages of teachers, per month—Summer and Fall, \$28.00 ; Winter, \$30.00.

DISTRICT No. 4.

Prudential Committee, . . . E. M. Titecomb.

Teachers.—Summer and Fall, Miss Alice A. Woodbury. Winter, Miss Mary J. Pelton.

Whole No. of scholars—Summer, 30 ; Fall, 31 ; Winter, 30.

Average attendance—Summer, 28 ; Fall, 27 ; Winter, 26.

Length of school in weeks—Summer, 9 ; Fall, 9 ; Winter, 8.

Wages of teachers, per month—Summer, \$36.00 ; Fall, \$40.00 ; Winter, \$48.00.

DISTRICT No. 5.

Prudential Committee, . . . Jesse A. Wilson.

Teachers.—Summer and Fall, Miss Ella A. Fox, of Dracut. Winter, Mr. Frank L. Baker, of Lowell.

Whole No. of scholars—Summer, 21; Fall, 24; Winter, 28.

Average attendance—Summer, 20; Fall, 19; Winter, 22.

Length of school in weeks—Summer, 9; Fall, 8; Winter, 12.

Wages of teachers, per month—Summer and Fall, \$28.00; Winter, \$46.00.

DISTRICT No. 6.

Prudential Committee, . . . Warren A. Sherburne.

Teacher.—Miss Clara A. Keyes.

Whole No. of scholars, 7.

Average attendance, 6.

Length of school in weeks, 16.

Wages of teacher per month, \$28.

The whole number of scholars in town reported by teachers, attending school not less than two weeks, 168. Boys, 90; girls, 78.

Number of children in town, between four and fourteen years of age, not attending school, 8.

The whole amount expended for schools the past year, \$1,554.21. Amount to each scholar, \$9.25.

Average wages of teachers, per month, including board, \$35.87 1-2.

Amount expended for repairs—District No. 2, \$ 4.00.

“ “ “ “ “ “ 3, 175.00.

Number of visits by Prudential Committee, 11 ; by Superintending Committee, 37 ; by citizens, 185.

Please take notice that the number of scholars is annually growing less, and that the amount expended per scholar, and the wages of teachers, are steadily on the increase.

GENERAL REMARKS.

It seems almost useless to present any remarks or suggestions to the people of this town, for in looking over the reports for the last few years I find in all of them suggestions, which if properly carried out, would make our schools much better than they are at present. In a certain sense our schools are prosperous, but when we consider our generous appropriation of money, comfortable school-houses, and text-books, as compared with those in use twenty-five years ago, I fear, we are not realizing all we have a right to expect. Some may think that I am bound to find fault. My earnest desire is to call attention to the actual condition of the schools, and see if we cannot create a public sentiment that will remedy the evils that do exist. I contend that when our scholars leave our schools they should at least read and spell the English language correctly, and have a good practical education, but such is not the fact.

I think it may be well for us to look for some of the causes why we are not realizing all the benefits from our school system that we should. I would like to call the attention of the citizens of the town to the law passed June, 1870, allowing towns, by vote, to abolish the District system. Under this law, instead of a Superintending Committee for the Town, and a Prudential Committee for each District, a Board of Education consisting of three is chosen (one being chosen annually) by vote of the Town; this

Board to exercise all the duties of Superintending and Prudential Committees. Under the present system the supervision of the schools amounts to but little, and where we have a new Prudential Committee in each District every year, we cannot expect them to give their duties much attention.

The leading features of the act are :

“1st. It abolishes the subdivision of towns into school districts.

2nd. It makes of the entire town one school district. The town thus becomes a unit for school purposes; the school-buildings are owned by the town; the town repairs and builds all school-houses.

3rd. It establishes and maintains in the different neighborhoods such schools as the good of the neighborhood requires. It does not imply that all the children in town must attend one school.

4th. It simplifies the management of the schools, and places them under the control of one set of officers. Thus it tends to secure that system and uniformity of instruction and management so much desired.

5th. It enables the board of education to establish a town high school, free to all scholars prepared to enter it.

6th. It secures a more economical and judicious expenditure of the public school fund.

7th. *It equalizes the advantages of the schools among all parts of the town.”*

One fault in our schools is, in my judgment, that we allow our scholars to spend nearly or quite one-half of their time in the study of arithmetic. I believe there is no need of this, if properly taught. A child twelve years of age, of average ability, can be taught all the written arithmetic necessary in eight terms of school; and, instead of going over and over it as long as they go to school, I think it would be better to drop it, and substitute some other study that will give them as much, or more, useful information.

Some of our terms of school, and especially the Winter terms, are very much annoyed, and the general prosperity marred, by the conduct of some of the larger boys. This evil does not affect themselves so seriously as it does the smaller children, and those well disposed. The remedy I

would suggest is that the Prudential Committees employ male teachers for the Winter terms of schools. I think teachers can be employed that will teach in a practical manner, and enforce good order by force, if not submitted to by moral suasion. There can, at least, be no harm in trying the experiment, and I know male teachers can be procured for the prices we now pay.

SCHOLARS NOT OVER-WORKED.

It cannot be said that too much is required of our scholars. I have given this subject careful thought, and have come to the conclusion that there is *not enough* required of them; and that it would be better if teachers required them to study all the time they are in school. I find, in visiting schools, a great lack of attention to the studies and recitations, and it is a very rare sight to see scholars studying as though they were really interested. I am confident that nearly one-half of the time is now wasted, and this accounts in a measure why our scholars do not progress faster. At the present rate of progress in our spelling classes it would take nearly twenty years to complete the book now in use. During the two years I have been acting as Superintendent not a single class has mastered it. The trouble seems to be that teachers do not realize that they have different grades of scholars to deal with, but treat them all as though they belonged to the infant or primary grade.

SOCIAL EVILS CONNECTED WITH OUR SCHOOLS.

Prominent among these evils is the exposure of children to injurious social influence as they are thrown together going to and from school, and during the hours of play,

without the oversight of either teacher or parent. Many a child here receives his first lesson in immorality. I can truly say that our schools are not exempt from these evils. And since it is necessary that children should be thus brought together, it is important that teachers and parents should understand the nature and extent of the dangers to which they are exposed, and devise the best means to throw every possible safeguard around them.

I have thus briefly spoken of the defects of our schools. There are many things connected with them that are worthy of commendation.

In conclusion, fellow-citizens, let us foster and cherish our schools, for they are the foundation of all free institutions, and the surest safeguard for liberty. Let us not be content to let them fail through neglect, for if any blessing is worth having it, is worth laboring to ~~preserve~~ *preserve*. The Common School teaches our children how to become good citizens, to respect their parents, to love their country, and to obey the laws of God.

Respectfully submitted.

FREDERIC A. CUTTER,

Supt'g School Com.

PELHAM, N. H., March 3rd, 1875.