

REPORTS

OF THE

Selectmen of Acushnet,

ON THE

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE TOWN,

AND OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

For the year 1874-5.

NEW BEDFORD:
E. ANTHONY & SONS PRINTERS.
1875.

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NEW BEDFORD:
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REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN.

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The Selectmen of the town of Acushnet respectfully submit the following report.

George F. Glasse is charged with uncollected taxes of 1872,		\$357.00
Amount collected,	\$67.60	
Amount remitted,	74.00	141.60
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Due the town,		\$215.40
George P. Morse, collector of taxes, is charged with tax bills of 1874,		\$8,892.35
Also with tax bills of 1873,		244.64
“ “ 1871,		24.40
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		\$9,161.39

CREDIT.

Paid State tax,	\$1,000.00	
Paid county tax,	863.51	
Discount on taxes collected,	502.90	
Uncollected taxes for 1871,	22.40	
“ “ 1873,	23.20	
“ “ 1874,	246.24	
Taxes remitted,	20.73	
Commissions on taxes collected,	83.66	
Amount paid town treasurer,	6,398.75	\$9,161.39

Treasurer's Account.

George P. Morse, treasurer, is charged with receiving taxes collected by George F. Glasse, 1872,	\$67.60
Received of collector,	6,398.75
State treasurer, as corporation tax, bank tax, and reimbursement of State aid,	1,466.66
Balance of last year's account,	950.21
Benjamin White, for auctioneer's license,	2.00
For school-books sold,	37.30
From State school fund,	251.49
Of county treasurer, reimbursement of dog fund,	119.45

Of Oliver R. Taber, peddler's license,	6.00
Of Alden Rounseville, for logs,	40.63
From sale of engine-house and lot, school-house and lot No. 8, and school-house No. 9,	1,220.00
From sale of burial lots,	12.50
Of William H. Terrill, use of town lot,	5.00
From sale of loam,	1.41
Of Benjamin White, guardian of Leonard Gam- mons, towards his support,	52.00
Of City of New Bedford, support of paupers,	66.50
Interest on taxes,	15.17
Of A. F. Brownell, peddler's license,	6.00
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	\$10,718.67

The treasurer is credited with the following amounts
paid :

Support of poor,	\$1,302.82
Support of public schools,	2,213.94
Incidental expenses, and new school-house,	5,158.12
Repairs on highways,	1,164.42
Treasurer's commission,	48.80
Balance in treasury,	830.57
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	\$10,718.67

Support of Schools.

Paid Miss Martha M. White, teaching,	\$276.00
Miss Eudora Lawrence, "	133.00
Miss Ida A. Omev, "	286.00
Miss Clara T. Wing, "	130.00
Miss Lucy H. Ellis, "	90.00
Mrs. Ann H. Snow, "	284.00
Miss Sarah L. Snow, "	150.00
Miss Gulielma Snow, "	90.00
Mr. Charles L. Russell, "	200.00
Mr. Francis Loomis, "	113.75
Mr. Bradford W. Drake, "	25.00
Town of Fairhaven tuition of scholars for 1873 and 1874,	84.93
City of New Bedford, tuition,	62.60
Edward R. Ashley, wood furnished for schools,	16.60
B. Y. Warner, wood furnished for schools,	16.66
George P. Morse, wood and coal for schools,	78.06
Edward W. Ashley, preparing fuel,	1.10
James Hickey, preparing fuel,	2.50
William Chase, preparing fuel,	.85

Job Haskins, preparing fuel,	2.75
George H. Manter, preparing fuel,	2.00
Cornelius T. Cummings, care and making fires,	4.00
Mrs. Dunham, cleaning school-house,	.40
James Case, preparing fuel,	2.89
William S. Hall, care and making fires,	4.25
Henry C. Churchill, care and making fires,	7.00
S. Hutchinson, globe and mountings,	9.35
Frank Wright, care and making fires,	4.25
Miss Amelia Keen, teaching,	136.00
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	\$2,213.94

Pauper Account.

Paid treasurer of Taunton Lunatic Hospital, support	\$209.70
of B. Taber,	329.34
R. Davis & Son, supplies for the poor,	7.00
Dr. Joseph Webster, medical aid to Mrs. Pierce,	26.00
Support of Ruth Cook,	15.00
Aid to John Hines,	39.75
Aid to Betsey Oliver,	66.50
Aid to Henry R. Swift,	5.00
William Handy, fish,	8.40
Walter R. Spooner, wheelbarrow, and filing saws,	170.00
S. Pratt, services as keeper at alms-house,	8.50
S. Pratt, swine and fish,	29.26
City of Taunton, support of paupers,	20.00
Gideon A. Hareling, support of Patience Taber,	12.19
Supplies to Charles W. Shepherd,	24.00
Rhody A. Bradford, support of Patience Taber,	20.00
Town of Fairhaven, support of paupers,	4.00
A. B. Grinnell, undertaker,	8.50
Baylies & Cannon,	9.50
Mrs. M. Pratt, making clothes for inmates,	15.00
Charles M. Wilde, hay,	10.62
S. Pratt, swine, and house furnishing,	159.06
City of New Bedford, support of paupers,	4.50
John Manter, Jr., boots,	10.00
B. G. Wilson, undertaker,	10.00
Walter Spooner, wood,	81.00
Town of Mattapoissett, support of pauper,	<hr/>
	\$1,302.82

Highway Account.

Amount expended by James R. Sherman,	\$210.00
“ “ by Andrew J. Wing,	279.00
“ “ by Samuel Wing,	261.14
“ “ by George P. Morse,	223.16
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	\$973.30

Amount expended by Benjamin Wilson on Perkins road,	\$123.00	
Paid A. Vincent for plow,	15.00	
Paid Andrew J. Wing, clearing snow and repairing roads damaged by washing,	44.57	
Paid James R. Sherman, clearing snow,	8.55	191.12
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		\$1,164.42

Incidental Expenses.

Paid Mrs. Caleb Case, cleaning school-house,	\$3.00
Miss Martha Billings, cleaning school-house,	5.00
E. Anthony & Sons, printing, and publishing notices,	59.25
Cyrus E. Clark, preparing deeds,	1.50
Benjamin Robinson, labor and materials on Perry Hill school-house,	28.21
James R. Sherman, repairs on school-house No. 1,	9.67
Edward R. Ashley, paid bills cleaning school-house,	5.00
S. Hutchinson, school books, stationery, &c.,	28.22
Town clerk, recording births, marriages, and deaths,	21.40
B. Y. Warner, paid bills cleaning school-houses,	5.00
Alden Rounseville, lumber, and saw bills,	25.65
Isaac V. Braley, services as carpenter at alms-house,	36.25
New Bedford Railroad, transportation,	5.20
S. Pratt, labor on fence and alms-house,	20.00
Benjamin White, services as auctioneer,	2.00
E. R. Ashley, shingles for alms-house,	32.06
S. Pratt, cutting logs and hauling, sold to A. Rounseville,	17.50
Interest on money borrowed before taxes were due,	14.44
Postage and express,	3.20
Copying valuation books for use of legislature,	10.00
Benjamin White, expenses to Boston purchasing school-house furniture,	4.00
Benjamin White, expenses to Boston adjusting corporation tax,	4.00
State aid,	179.87
Edward R. Ashley, repairs on school-house No. 6,	6.74

Expenses incurred by the committee appointed by the town to oppose the setting off a part of the town of Acushnet,	86.70
Cornelius Howland, smithing,	3.95
Benjamin White, expense to Sharon,	6.00
George P. Morse, postage, express, and incidentals,	12.48
Benjamin White, services as selectman, assessor, and overseer of poor,	90.00
Pardon Taber, Jr., services as selectman, assessor, and overseer of poor,	70.00
Walter Spooner, services as selectman, assessor, and overseer of poor,	65.00
George P. Morse, services as school committee,	30.00
Edward R. Ashley, " "	35.00
Burrage Y. Warner, " "	20.00
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	\$946.29

New School-House Account.

Paid Benjamin Robinson, labor,	\$215.40
Albert S. Morse, "	175.87
John H. Ricketson, "	71.90
Charles M. Morse, "	84.90
Joseph Dillingham, "	215.22
Frank Bryant, "	67.50
Stephen Hathaway, "	80.55
James Getchell, lathing,	22.00
Reuben B. Peckham, masonry,	97.82
F. P. Sowle, window frames, blinds and furnishings,	331.99
Charles M. Peirce, lime, brick, &c.,	61.00
William Watkins, iron,	15.93
Pierce & Page, nails,	68.44
Eli Read, hauling lumber, sand, &c.,	81.00
George A. Cobb, tin and tinning,	27.87
George S. Weeks, painting,	39.76
William Maxfield, paints,	72.46
Green & Wood, lumber,	69.39
David H. Tripp, lumber,	26.97
Mosher & Co., doors,	46.00
M. Brightman, pillars and trimmings,	45.73
A. W. Allen, sawing,	3.61
Daniel V. Smith,	57.94
E. G. Dillingham, labor,	320.19
Western Lumber Co., lumber and trimmings,	939.80
E. R. Ashley, shingles,	80.75
Pierce & Page, hardware,	27.80

Stephen Sawyer,	3.40
Hayes & Co., lumber and turning,	5.12
Daniel V. Smith, painting,	8.69
Pardon Taber, Jr., sand and hauling,	7.75
Frank Terry, smithing,	9.04

\$3.381.79

Furnishing School-House.

Paid Joseph L. Ross, school-house furnish- ings, desks, &c.,	\$206.00	
J. Baylies & Co., settees,	12.00	
Pierce & Page, stove-pipe, &c.,	62.76	\$280.76

School-House Lot and Preparing.

Paid Thomas S. Hathaway, one acre of land,	\$275.00	
Andrew J. Wing, teaming,	64.62	
Alexander Allen, labor on stone work,	88.75	
Zacheus H. Wright, stone,	12.00	
Edwin Taber, labor,	41.12	
David Peirce, smithing,	9.83	
Benjamin White, labor on stone work,	8.78	
John H. Ricketson, labor on lot,	9.62	
Samuel W. Bowles, labor on lot,	9.63	
Joseph Dillingham, labor on lot,	11.03	
E. G. Dillingham, labor on lot and bridge,	18.90	\$549.28

\$4,211.83

All of which is respectfully submitted.

BENJAMIN WHITE,	{	Selectmen of Acushnet.
WALTER SPOONER,		
PARDON TABER, JR.,		

Report of the Committee appointed by the Town of Acushnet April 6, 1874, to purchase a lot and build a school-house thereon near the parting ways in the town of Acushnet, is as follows:

That they purchased a lot of Mr. Thomas S. Hathaway, comprising one acre, and constructed a school-house thereon at a cost of about \$4,211.83, furnished ready for occupancy, and delivered the same to the School Committee in time to commence the winter term of school.

BENJAMIN WHITE,	{	Building Committee.
PARDON TABER, JR.,		
WALTER SPOONER,		

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

In conformity with the General Statutes of the Commonwealth, your committee again present their annual report.

The committee organized by the choice of EDWARD R. ASHLEY Chairman, and GEORGE P. MORSE Secretary.

APPROPRIATIONS.

Amount raised by the town,	\$2,000.00
Received from the State school fund,	251.49
Received from the dog fund,	119.45
	<u>\$2,370.94</u>

DETAILED REPORT OF THE SCHOOLS.

The following tabular view will exhibit the names of teachers, wages, attendance, and other particulars of the schools.

TABLE I.

No. of Schools.	SUMMER.				FALL.				WINTER.			
	Attendance between 5 and 15.	Attendance over 15.	Attendance under 5.	Whole attendance.	Attendance between 5 and 15.	Attendance over 15.	Attendance under 5.	Whole attendance.	Attendance between 5 and 15.	Attendance over 15.	Attendance under 5.	Whole attendance.
1	15	2	219	15.3	17	3	121	16.3	15	2	17	13.6
2	*		10								16	
3	19	0	019	16.21			23	18.2	28	9	037	24
4	†											
5	19	0	019	14		0	019	14	19	2	021	15
6	19	7	026	24	21	11	032	29	18	4	022	13.59
7	20	0	020	17.26	20	0	020	16.19	27	3	030	20.25
8	31	0	233	24.5	37	0	138	28				
9	14	0	115	11.08	11	0	011	7.91	†			

* No school; scholars attend New Bedford school, and paid according to agreement.
† No school.

TABLE II.

	Terms.	Teachers.	Wages.	Length of School.
No. 1, Bisbee,	Summer,	Martha W. White,	\$28.00	2.25 mos.
	Fall,	Martha W. White,	28.00	2.75 "
	Winter,	Martha W. White,	32.00	4.25 "
2, County Road.*				
3, Whelden,	Summer,	Eudora Lawrence,	28.00	2.25 "
	Fall,	Eudora Lawrence,	28.00	2.25 "
	Winter,	Amelia F. Keen,	32.00	4.5 "
4, Acushnet.				
5, Long Plain,	Summer,	Ann H. Snow,	28.00	2.5 "
	Fall,	Ann H. Snow,	28.00	2.5 "
	Winter,	Ann H. Snow,	32.00	4.5 "
6, Hammett,	Summer,	Sarah L. Snow,	30.00	2.25 "
	Fall,	Sarah L. Snow,	30.00	2.75 "
	Winter,	F. A. Loomis,	35.00	3.25 "
7, Perry Hill,	Summer,	Clara T. Wing,	26.00	2.25 "
	Fall,	Clara T. Wing,	26.00	2.75 "
	Winter,	Ida A. Omev,	32.00	4.25 "
8, Packard,	Summer,	Ida A. Omev,	30.00	2½ "
	Fall,	Ida A. Omev,	30.00	2½ "
9, Wing,	Summer,	Lucy H. W. Ellis,	20.00	2.25 "
	Fall,	Lucy H. W. Ellis,	20.00	2.25 "
4 and 8,	Winter,	Charles L. Russell,	50.00	4.50 "
		Bradford W. Drake,	50.00	0.50 "
		Gulie H. Snow,	20.00	

* No school.

At a meeting of your School Committee it was thought best to see what arrangement could be made with the School Committee of New Bedford to put the scholars of No. 2 or County road school into their school, which was convenient. On the 11th of April the Chairman of your Committee had an interview with Mr. Harrington, the Superintendent of New Bedford schools. He was pleased to have them in their school, it being small at the time. Our average attendance at the last term was ten scholars, and he could accommodate ten, leaving the balance to attend No. 3 or Whelden school, which was about one mile distant. This made dissatisfaction with the people of No. 2, and was seized as a pretence to secede from Acushnet, and as "New Bedford wanted them and used their influence to get them with the territory," the plain facts against their chicanery had but a small chance. Your Committee used all honorable means to pacify, and oppose the petition of the seceders and their powerful allies.

Your Committee are in duty bound to congratulate the inhabit-

ants of the town that we have one school-house that is an ornament to the town. We have a commodious and beautiful edifice pleasantly situated on a high and healthy eminence commanding a view of a large part of the town. The building committee deserve great praise for the interest and ability displayed in the erection of the building, and at least a vote of thanks for their generosity in giving their time and assistance gratuitously in its erection. The school was opened by a dedicatory service, which was rendered exceedingly interesting by reason of an able and appropriate address by the Rev. William B. Hammond; also by Rev. C. E. Walker and others. Your Committee entertain the hope that they may enjoy another such season within a twelvemonth. It also affords your Committee much pleasure to be able to state that the first school term in the new house has been a perfect success, and has added another proof to the fact so often reiterated, that a school of sixty scholars is much more interesting and profitable than one of sixteen. There has been a marked improvement in all the branches taught, but the most rapid progress we think has been in reading. Again, the order has been such as to command the admiration of visitors at all times, and although the register gives the names of a very respectable list of visitors we very much regret that many others did not avail themselves of the privilege of witnessing the interest and energy displayed by teachers and pupils. Good government is one of the first requisites in a teacher. It matters but little how much of intellectual attainments they may possess, if they fail in government. Good order, good manners and good morals are equally essential.

Your Committee have endeavored to supply competent teachers for the schools, and with few exceptions have given satisfaction, showing general advancement in the scholars, and in some cases exceeded our most sanguine expectations. Sickness and severity of the winter season has been hard with some schools, showing a falling off in attendance which could not be controlled, darkening the register to the detriment of the schools.

We suppose it to be an axiom that no person should assume any responsible position the duties of which, however onerous, he is not willing to fulfil; he is of course not at liberty to hold it and reject the responsibility. This proposition applies of course to all,

and more especially to committees and teachers of our public schools.

Experience shows that a cheap kind of teaching is on a par with other work. No committee, however attentive and intelligent, can have but an indirect influence on the work of the school, but leaving the school in charge of the teacher, they expect, and justly too, that his time and talents shall be given as an equivalent for the salary which they pay him. He as well as the committee must have the public sympathy and encouragement to aid him. If you would aid us in this direction, visit the schools oftener during the ensuing year, and cause the blank spaces in each register to be filled with your names, thereby evincing an interest in your children's highest welfare, and the teacher will feel that there is an appreciative public watching the result of his efforts, that the business of teaching is no sinecure, that his work must be not only regularly laid out, but firmly and energetically carried forward. Teachers should be active, vigilant, and persevering; if otherwise, the pupil becomes disinterested and discouraged. Teachers should be kind and affable in their deportment, and at the same time maintain a becoming dignity and self-respect. And while the timid and retiring scholar is to be encouraged and led forward carefully by gentle words and mild measures, the obstinately disobedient are to be controlled by a firm hand, and, if need be, made to feel the necessity of obedient submission.

The cooperation of parents with teachers, exercises one of the most powerful influences over the destinies of a school. If parents would but visit their schools, confer with the teachers, and witness for themselves what labors and responsibilities there are connected with the school-room, it might be the means of awakening them to a higher sense of their duty, and stimulate teachers and pupils to greater exertions. If matters in the school are not moving to their satisfaction, it is far better for them, and for the school, to go to the teacher with the difficulty, lay before him a statement of the case, and candidly and carefully talk the matter over with him; and, in nine cases out of ten, he will comply with all reasonable requests.

One great fault in our schools is irregular attendance, and the committee would here urge upon parents the importance of doing

their whole duty in this matter. It is not enough that we make liberal appropriations for the support of schools; that we provide good school-houses and competent teachers. We must go one step farther in order to render the work complete. We must see that our children are prompt and constant in their attendance at the school-room whenever school is in session, unless prevented by circumstances which render absence fairly excusable.

In conclusion we would say, make your school-houses pleasant and attractive, have them occupied by loving, working teachers, and encourage your children to make the wisest use of their advantages, and they will be fitted for the duties of life, and qualified to fill worthy positions in society.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. R. ASHLEY,	} School Committee of Acushnet.
B. Y. WARNER,	
G. P. MORSE,	