

# TOWN OF HAMPTON.

## REPORTS

OF

SELECTMEN, TOWN TREASURER,

AND

Superintending School Committee,

For the Year Ending March 13th, 1877,

TOGETHER WITH A

Statement of the Town Debt.

EXETER:

GAZETTE STEAM PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT,  
1877.

# TOWN OFFICERS, 1876.

*Moderator,*

SEWEL W. DOW.

*Town Clerk,*

DAVID O. LEAVITT.

*Representative,*

JOSEPH MASON.

*Selectmen and Assessors,*

JACOB T. BROWN,

JOHN H. FOGG,

WILLIAM H. BLAKE.

*Treasurer,*

JACOB T. BROWN.

*Overseer of Poor,*

WILLIAM H. BLAKE.

*Superintending School Committee,*

HORACE M. LANE.

*Collector of Taxes,*

WILLIAM G. COLE.

*Superintendent of Town House,*

MOSES A. DOW.

*Auditors,*

JOHN J. LEAVITT,

URI LAMPREY,

DAVID A. PHILBRICK.

TOWN OFFICERS, 1876.  
SEWELL W. DOW.  
TOWN CLERK.  
35 DOWS STREET.

## SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

### INVOICE, APRIL 1, 1876.

Residents' Invoice	\$590,077 00
Non-Residents' Invoice	57,723 00
Polls, 322	32,200 00
<b>Total Invoice</b>	<b>\$680,000 00</b>

### TAXES.

State Tax,	\$1524 00
County Tax,	1548 72
Town Tax,	2500 00
School Tax,	1835 00
Percentage added,	236 03
	<b>\$7140 75</b>
School House Tax, District No. 1,	\$1100 00
Percentage added,	14 79
	<b>\$1114 79</b>
School House Tax, District No. 2,	\$800 00
Percentage added,	8 07
	<b>\$808 07</b>
School House Tax, District No. 6,	\$550 00
Percentage added,	16 69
	<b>\$566 69</b>

Resident Highway Tax,	\$1864 67	
Non-Resident Highway Tax,	174 06	
		<hr/>
		\$2038 73
63 Dogs Taxed,	\$65 00	
		<hr/>
		\$65 00
Total Taxes for 1876, on Collector's Book,		\$11,734 03

#### RATE OF TAXATION.

State, County, Town & School Taxes, are	\$1 05	on	\$100 00
School House Tax in District No. 1, is	.43	on	100 00
" " " " " 2, is	.45	on	100 00
" " " " " 6, is	.80	on	100 00
Highway Tax is	.30	on	100 00

#### LIABILITIES OF TOWN BY NOTES.

All bearing interest at 5 per ct. Interest paid to Feb. 21 1877.			
Abby B. Rollins,	August 22, 1876,	\$ 973 66	
Fabyan P. Drake,	" " "	569 76	
William T. Lamprey,	" " "	2582 16	
Joseph T. Sanborn,	" " "	622 00	
Congregational Society,	" " "	115 22	
Congregational Society,	" " "	2492 34	
Baptist Society,	" " "	1103 00	
			<hr/>
Principle of Notes,			\$8458 14
Interest to March 1, 1877,			191 09
			<hr/>
Amount of Town Notes, March 1, 1877,			\$8649 23
Notes all dated August 22, 1876.			

The case of Dumas vs. Hampton came to trial at the January term of Court. The jury found a verdict for Plaintiff in the sum of \$150 and interest from date of writ. The case is not yet fully determined, there being exceptions and questions of law to decide.

## HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

In addition to Highway Taxes the Town has paid for Highways and Bridges as follows:—

Rebuilding Bridge near A. T. Wilbur's,	\$330 00	
Rebuilding Nilus Bridge,	95 20	
Removing obstructions on North Road,	73 60	
Rebuilding Landing Road Bridge,	9 00	
Removing obstructions near Dearborn Blake's	10 00	
Improving Exeter Road,	25 40	
Improving Towle Road,	15 00	
Repairs on Turnpike Fence,	9 72	
Railing at Leavitt's Mill,	1 00	
Making Snow Paths,	132 62	
Gravel for Highways,	58 90	
O. Godfrey, for Land and Damage of New Road,	85 00	
		<u>\$845 44</u>

Amount of Town Notes and Interest,		\$8649 23
Cash in Treasury,	265 85	
Due from Collector,	269 36	
		<u>535 21</u>
Balance Against Town,		\$8114 02

Amount of Debt by Note March 1, 1876,	\$9343 00	
Amount of Debt by Note March 1, 1877,	8114 00	
		<u>\$1229 00</u>

JACOB T. BROWN,	} Selectmen of Hampton.
JOHN H. FOGG,	
WILLIAM H. BLAKE,	

### TREASURER'S REPORT.

Jacob T. Brown, Treasurer, in account with the Town of  
Hampton, for the year ending March 13, 1877.

#### Dr.

Received Cash in Treasury, March 13, 1876,	\$13 39
Outstanding taxes of 1875,	267 47
on Town Notes,	9766 24
on Sales of Town Property,	34 25
of State Treasurer,	527 03
of County Treasurer,	282 47
Income of Town Farm,	81 41
Rent of Town Hall,	21 30
J. Lane and O. Godfrey payment of Note,	102 89
Collector Cole on account of Taxes,	9600 00
S. H. Dumas Highway tax of 1876,	33 90

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**Total Receipts,** **\$20729 85**

Jacob T. Brown, Treasurer, in account with the Town of  
Hampton, for the year ending March 13, 1877.

#### Cr.

Paid outstanding demands,	\$112 89
State Tax,	1524 00
County Tax,	1548 72
School money to Districts,	1600 00
School House Taxes,	2490 00
Town Notes,	10681 78
Interest on Town Notes,	177 10
Support of Paupers,	429 52
Highways and Bridges,	845 44
Non-Resident Highway tax worked,	76 22
Incidental expenses,	282 89

Paid Salaries of Town officers,	464 00	
Discount on taxes paid Aug. 1,	205 80	
Abatement of taxes,	25 64	
		<hr/>
Total Expenditures,	\$20464 00	
Cash in Treasury,	265 85	
		<hr/>
	\$20729 85	

The Resident Highway taxes having been adjusted with the Surveyors of highways, no account is taken of them by the Treasurer.

### TREASURER'S REPORT IN DETAIL.

#### RECEIPTS.

Cash in Treasury March 14, 1876,	\$13 39	
		<hr/>
Outstanding taxes of 1875,	\$267 47	\$13 39
		<hr/>
		\$267 47

#### TOWN NOTES.

Received of John H. Fogg, on Town Note,	\$600 00	
Abby B. Rollins	973 66	
Fabyan P. Drake	569 76	
William T. Lamprey	2582 16	
Joseph T. Sanborn	622 00	
John H. Fogg	708 10	
Congregational Society	115 22	
Baptist Society	1103 00	
Congregational Society	2492 84	
		<hr/>
		\$9766 24

## SALES OF TOWN PROPERTY.

Received of Benj. Hobbs lot in Cemetery,	\$6 00	
Wm H. Blake " "	12 00	
John H. Fogg " "	16 00	
Osborne Perkins, gravel,	25	
	<hr/>	\$34 25
Received of State Treasurer, railroad tax	\$102 04	
savings bank tax	318 34	
Literary Fund	106 65	
	<hr/>	\$527 03
Received of County Treasurer, for support of		
Eliza Green 1 year	\$52 00	
County Treasurer for support of		
John Lane	52 00	
County Treasurer for support of		
S. and B. Dearborn	72 50	
County Treasurer for support of		
Sally Sanborn	36 00	
County Treasurer for support of		
Abbie Dunbrack to Feb. 13, 1877	45 00	
County Treasurer for support of		
Geo. Tibbetts and family	24 97	
	<hr/>	\$282 47
Received of W. H. Blake, Supt., Income of		
Town Farm	81 41	
	<hr/>	\$81 41
Received of Moses A. Dow, Sup., rent of		
Town Hall	21 30	
	<hr/>	\$21 30



Received of J. Lane and O. Godfrey payment of note	102 39	
	<hr/>	\$102 39
Received of Collector Cole on taxes of 1876	9600 00	
	<hr/>	\$9600 00
Received of S. H. Dumas, Highway tax of 1876	33 90	
	<hr/>	\$33 90

## DISBURSEMENTS OF TREASURER IN DETAIL.

### OUTSTANDING DEMANDS.

Paid bill for auditing accounts of 1875,	\$ 6 00	
“ Printing town accounts of 1875,	32 00	
“ S. H. Dumas, labor on beach road in '74,	67 50	
“ A. J. Batchelder, abatement of tax, 1875,	1 82	
“ Frank Lamprey, “ “ “	2 12	
“ Charles Blake, “ “ “	1 63	
“ Edward A. Truesdale, “ “ “	1 82	
	<hr/>	\$112 89

### STATE TAX.

Paid State tax for 1876,	\$1524 00	
	<hr/>	\$1524 00

### COUNTY TAX.

Paid County tax for 1876,	\$1548 72	
	<hr/>	\$1548 72

## SCHOOL MONEY.

Paid School District No. 1,	\$464 50
“ “ “ “ 2,	416 60
“ “ “ “ 3,	192 20
“ “ “ “ 4,	160 00
“ “ “ “ 5,	190 35
“ “ “ “ 6,	176 35

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\$1600 00

## SCHOOL-HOUSE TAXES.

Paid School District No. 1,	\$1114 00
“ “ “ 2,	808 00
“ “ “ 6,	568 00

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\$2490 00

## TOWN NOTES PAID IN FULL.

Paid Jacob T. Brown,	Town Note,	\$231 75
John H. Fogg,	“ “	612 70
Mary Fogg,	“ “	95 40
Fabyan P. Drake,	“ “	569 76
Joseph T. Sanborn,	“ “	622 00
Abby B. Rollins,	“ “	973 66
William T. Lamprey,	“ “	2582 16
Congregational Society,	“ “	2313 24
Congregational Society,	“ “	223 86
Congregational Society,	“ “	115 22
Baptist Society,	“ “	1137 52
Jeremiah M. Lamprey,	“ “	477 88
John H. Fogg,	“ “	726 63

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\$10681 78

## INTEREST ON TOWN NOTES.

Paid Cong. Society, interest on notes,	\$149 54	
Baptist Society, " " note,	27 56	
		<u>          </u>
		\$177 10

## SUPPORT OF PAUPERS.

Paid Geo. W. Lane & Co., supplies to Tibbetts,	4 47	
Dr. C. H. Sanborn, medical attendance,	7 50	
C. C. Robinson, care of Tibbetts,	4 00	
E. B. Blake, trucking goods,	2 50	
Eastern Railroad Co., freight on goods,	6 50	
		<u>          </u>
Amount paid for Tibbetts family,		\$24 97
		<u>          </u>
Paid David Lamprey care and board of Abbie Dunbruck, 19 weeks ending Feb. 12, '77,	23 75	
		<u>          </u>
Amount paid for A. Dunbruck,		\$23 75
		<u>          </u>
Paid Simeon Shaw board of Eliza Green 45 weeks ending Feb. 10,	\$45 00	
		<u>          </u>
		\$45 00
		<u>          </u>
Paid Lydia A. Lane, care of John Lane one year ending Feb. 21,	\$78 00	
		<u>          </u>
		\$78 00
		<u>          </u>
Paid David S. Brown, board of Sally Sanborn 36 weeks ending Feb. 12,	\$36 00	
		<u>          </u>
		\$36 00

Paid S. P. Towle, rent of land for tramps,	\$10 00
J. Marston, care of tramps,	23 30
J. T. Brown, $\frac{1}{2}$ cord wood for tramps,	2 00
Geo. W. Lane & Co., supplies for tramps,	4 65
	<hr/>
	\$39 95
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Paid G. W. Lane & Co., goods to B. Dearborn,	\$ 2 56
Ann Godfrey, labor for S. & B. Dearborn,	6 00
D. O. Leavitt, goods for " " "	67 17
A. D. Brown, " " " " "	70 49
W. H. Blake, labor and supplies for S. & B. Dearborn,	18 63
W. L. Blake, labor and supplies for S. & B. Dearborn,	17 00
	<hr/>
	\$181 85
Amount paid for paupers,	<hr/> \$429 52

### HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

Paid bill for bridge near A. T. Wilbur's,	\$330 00
" " " over Niles' brook,	95 20
" " labor on North Road,	73 60
" " " " road near D. Blake's,	10 00
" " " " bridge on Landing Road,	9 00
" " breaking snow paths,	132 62
" " gravel to repair highway,	58 90
" " labor on Exeter Road,	25 40
" " " " Towle Road,	15 00
" " lumber and labor on turnpike fence,	9 72
" " railing road near Leavitt's mill,	1 00
	<hr/>
	\$756 54

## NEW ROAD.

Paid Oliver Godfrey, land and damage laying out road over his land,	\$85 00	
	<hr/>	\$85 00
Total expended on Highways and Bridges,		\$841 54

## NON-RESIDENT HIGHWAY TAX.

Amount of tax paid in labor on highway,	\$76 22	
	<hr/>	\$76 22

## INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

Paid bill stove, funnel and fixtures for Town Hall,	\$ 28 02	
bill repairs on Town House, guide boards, &c.,	11 95	
bill railroad fare, telegrams and postage, &c.,	5 67	
“ cementing cemetery wall,	9 50	
“ E. P. Young's smith bill,	10 56	
“ Dr. Merrill, return of births and deaths,	11 00	
“ Dr. Sanborn, “ “ “ “ “	1 00	
“ J. F. Wiggin Esq., advice,	1 00	
“ North Hampton tax,	97	
“ J. S. Moore, damage to wagon,	5 00	
“ witnesses in case Dumas vs. Hampton,	111 55	
“ blank book for town clerk,	8 00	
“ blank books Town Officer and Station- ery for Selectmen,	6 72	
bill damage to sheep by dogs,	20 50	
“ insurance of Town House 3 years,	30 00	
“ guide boards and guide posts,	14 00	
“ bell rope for town bell,	3 45	
“ plow broke on highway,	4 00	
	<hr/>	\$282 89

## SALARIES OF TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid David O. Leavitt, Town Clerk,	35 00	
Horace M. Lane, Supt. School Com.	25 00	
Jacob T. Brown, Selectman,	75 00	
John H. Fogg, Selectman,	45 00	
William H. Blake, Selectman,	45 00	
William G. Cole, Collector,	100 00	
Jacob T. Brown, Treasurer,	25 00	
William H. Blake, Over eer of poor,	15 00	
John H. Fogg, service in case Dumas vs. Hampton,	5 00	
Moses A. Dow, bell ringer,	80 00	
Jacob T. Wallace, police,	6 00	
James W. Blake, police,	6 00	
Wm. L. Hobbs, police 4th of July,	2 00	
		<hr/>
		\$464 00

## DISCOUNT ON TAXES.

Paid Collector 5 per cent discount on taxes paid August 1, 1875.	205 80	
		<hr/>
		\$205 80

## ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

Paid Ira Page, abatement of tax,	1 23	
Thomas L. Marston, "	05	
Heirs of Geo. H. Page,	3 26	
Arthur T. Wilber,	10 00	
Samuel A. Towle,	4 90	
Morris Hobbs,	3 24	
A. R. Sackett,	2 96	
		<hr/>
		\$25 64

JACOB T. BROWN, Treasurer.

We have this day examined the Treasurer's and Selectmen's accounts and find the same correctly cast and properly vouched.

URI LAMPREY,  
DAVID A. PHILBRICK. } AUDITORS.  
JOHN J. LEAVITT,

Hampton, March 2, 1877.

# REPORT

OF THE

## SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

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In conformity to the usual custom, the following report is respectfully presented :

### DISTRICT NO. 1.

URI LAMPREY,  
DAVID J. GARLAND, } *Prudential Committee.*

The Primary Department has, during the entire school year, been under the charge of Miss Alice Lamprey, of this town, who performed her duty in a faithful manner, and the scholars made commendable improvement while under her care. We think Miss Lamprey would give satisfaction in a larger and more advanced school.

### GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

The Summer Term of this school was under the charge of Miss Emma A. Wilson, of Kittery, Maine. For some cause, which we never fully understood, the school was not as successful as it might have been ; when we visited the school, however, passable order seemed to prevail, but the attendance was small. Miss Wilson has before taught with success, and we trust that with her experience as pupil at the Normal School at Salem, Mass., of which she has been a member, she will make a successful teacher.

Some of us, teachers, are apt to be rather arbitrary and independent in our manner, and an excess of these characteristics will be liable to create discordant feelings between the teacher,



and parents and scholars, and the spirit of criticism or fault-finding, which is ready at all times and places to show itself, will be prevalent in the district, and the school much injured; this being the case, teacher, parents, and all concerned, should use discretion as to what they say or do in regard to the school.

WINTER TERM.—This school was taught by your Committee, who regards it as rather a delicate task to give an account of his own stewardship; still, we are inclined to believe that the school, though not *all* that could have been desired, compared favorably in deportment and interest with the remaining schools in town. The scholars improved by their own endeavors and some little assistance.

The greatest fault of this school is irregular attendance, but a great portion of it could not be avoided during the past winter, owing to the severity of the weather, bad traveling, and sickness. In a great many instances there could have been no reasonable excuse, over which, the parents and committee have more control than the teacher. We would take this occasion to express our thanks to the Chairman of the Prudential Committee, Uri Lamprey, Esq., for his interest in the school, and also for aid in endeavoring to secure "reform" in attendance at school.

#### DISTRICT NO. 2.

JOHN F. MARSTON,  
SAMUEL W. DEARBORN, } *Prudential Committee.*  
HORACE HOBBS,

#### PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Both Summer and Winter terms of this school were taught by Miss Mary E. Shaw, of this town. This being Miss Shaw's first attempt at teaching, and knowing that in past terms the school had been rather uneasy, we had some fears as to what the result might be; but we are pleased to report that it was a decided success; good order and attendance was manifested, which guarantee a good school.

## GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Miss Maria Perkins filled the position of teacher for the Summer term, and labored faithfully for the benefit of the scholars, who made improvement, especially those that attended school regularly. Miss Perkins is pleasant in her manners in the school-room, and is quite an accomplished tactician in the art of governing.

WINTER TERM.—During this term, this school was presided over by Mr. A. J. Pillsbury, a native of Londonderry, N. H., but who moved to Kansas while young, and has until recently resided there. Mr. Pillsbury adopts the topical method of instruction, which we think with extra exertions on the part of the pupils, preferable to our common method. The order was not as good as it should be, but as this was his first attempt at Eastern teaching, we have no doubt but that he will improve by experience. He is greatly interested in his work, consequently will succeed.

## DISTRICT NO. 3.

GEORGE A. BLAKE, }  
 JOHN I. PAGE, } *Prudential Committee.*  
 BENJAMIN HOBBS, }

SUMMER TERM.—This school was taught by Miss A. Isabel Cole, of this town. The number of scholars was small, term short, but a degree of interest was manifested, and some progress made.

WINTER TERM.—This term was commenced by Miss Hattie F. Marston, of North Hampton, but the Prudential Committee, after the school had been in session about six weeks, deeming it advisable to make a change of teachers, did so, by which Miss Lydia A. Watson, of Nottingham, N. H., was employed as teacher, and has since been teaching with success. The school is, at this time of writing, in session, consequently we cannot give a full report.

## DISTRICT NO. 4.

WILLIAM NORRIS, *Prudential Committee.*

The school, during both Summer and Winter terms, was taught by Miss Laura A. Norris, of this town, a teacher of large experience, having taught, according to her register, some twenty-five or thirty terms. Miss Norris is a thorough teacher, and has a pleasant manner of imparting a large amount of useful information, other than that found in the text-book. I would recommend Miss Norris to committees in search of an active, wide-awake, thorough teacher.

## DISTRICT NO. 5.

JOSIAH J. DEARBORN, *Prudential Committee.*

The Summer term was taught by Miss Amy Dearborn, of this town, who gave satisfaction, we believe, to all concerned, and the Winter term by Mr. S. Albert Shaw, also of this town. Mr. Shaw is a young man of good education, principles and habits, and has performed his duties in an efficient manner, consequently the school prospered greatly while under his charge. He would do well in a larger school.

## DISTRICT NO. 6.

AIKEN S. COFFIN, *Prudential Committee.*

Miss Josie Marston taught the school during both terms. This school is very small in numbers, but the scholars are very studious and attentive to their duties, and the teacher very thorough, hence the school was prosperous and successful.

Scholars not absent one-half day during a term :

## DISTRICT NO. 1.—PRIMARY SCHOOL.

SUMMER TERM.—Augusta Brown, Marcia Garland, G. Ervin Garland.

WINTER TERM.—G. Ervin Garland, Willie Perkins.

## GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

SUMMER TERM.—Abbie F. Locke, Clara E. Brown.

WINTER TERM.—Abbie F. Locke, George C. Perkins, Chas. R. Palmer.

## DISTRICT NO. 2.—PRIMARY SCHOOL.

SUMMER TERM.—Mary A. Wallace, Sadie M. Hobbs, Charlie Brown, Albert G. Brown, Howard G. Lane, Ernest G. Cole.

WINTER TERM.—Marcia L. Dearborn, Mary A. Wallace, Frank Palmer. Ervin S. Drake, Howard G. Lane, Willie A. Dow, Charlie Brown, George A. Chase, Frank J. Dearborn, Albert L. Brown.

## GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

SUMMER TERM.—M. Lillian Brown, Anna M. Cole, Carrie A. Drake, Mary Lane, Annie M. Marston, Clara D. Page, John Brown.

WINTER TERM.—M. Lillian Brown, Annie M. Cole, Ena Drake, Carrie Drake, Mamie Lane, Annie M. Marston, John Brown, Melzar Dunbar, George Lamprey, Charles Lane.

## DISTRICT NO. 3.

SUMMER TERM.—Mary A. Blake, Sadie E. Blake, Isa S. Lane, Effie A. Laird, Annie L. Weare, Levi O. Blake, Bennie A. Blake, Josie A. Blake, George W. Lane.

WINTER TERM.—Isa S. Lane, Sarah E. Blake, Annie M. Blake, Mary A. Blake, George W. Lane, Levi O. Blake, Josie A. Blake.

## DISTRICT NO. 4.

SUMMER TERM.—Annie Towle, Carrie Towle, Hattie Kendall, Mary E. Johnson, Herbert Marston, Otis W. Marston, Fred Towle, Orin L. Lane.

WINTER TERM.—Edmund Mason.

## DISTRICT NO. 5.

SUMMER TERM.—Gracie L. Dearborn, John F. Dearborn.

## DISTRICT NO. 6.

WINTER TERM.—Nellie D. Coffin.

# STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE SCHOOLS.

Number of District.	TEACHER'S NAMES.	Wages of Teacher per Month.	Length of School in Weeks.		Whole Number of Scholars.		Average Attendance.	Scholars Constant in Attendance.	Visits by Superintendent.	Visits by Citizens.	Percentage of Attendance.	Expense per Month for each Scholar.
	PRIMARY.											
1	Alice M. Lamprey....	\$15 00	16	21	13	3	2	34	62		\$0 71	
1	Alice M. Lamprey ...	16 00	15	17	13	2	2	36	77		0 90	
	GRAMMAR.											
1	Emma A. Wilson.....	25 00	12	40	25	2	3	18	62		0 63	
1	Horace M. Lane.....	45 00	15	43	35	3	..	40	82		1 05	
	PRIMARY.											
2	Mary E. Shaw.....	18 00	16	36	27	6	2	20	75		0 50	
2	Mary E. Shaw.....	18 00	12	34	28	8	2	42	82		0 53	
	GRAMMAR.											
2	Maria Perkins.....	25 00	16	35	27	7	3	20	77		0 71	
2	A. J. Pillsbury.....	40 00	12	40	36	10	2	25	90		1 00	
3	A. Isabel Cole.....	20 00	10	25	22	9	2	8	88		0 80	
3	Hattie F. Marston.....	30 00	6	28	24	7	1	2	86		1 07	
3	Lydia A. Watson.....	37 00	9	27	25	7	2	20	93		1 37	
4	Laura A. Norris.....	25 00	10	22	20	8	3	19	91		1 14	
4	Laura A. Norris.....	30 00	13	21	19	1	3	16	91		1 43	
5	Amy Dearborn.....	20 00	14	10	7	2	2	7	70		2 00	
5	S. Albert Shaw.....	26 00	15	12	10	..	3	9	83		2 17	
6	Josie E. Marston.....	23 00	15	10	7	..	2	7	70		2 30	
6	Josie E. Marston.....	23 00	14	8	6	1	2	16	75		2 87	

The condition of our schools, during the past year, as indicated by the remarks under the head of the several districts, has, with one or two exceptions, been prosperous. Good order has prevailed in most cases, which, with thorough teachers, gave satisfactory results.

The Prudential Committees were, in every district, of a class of citizens who are interested in school affairs, and, as an outgrowth of such feeling, did what they could, conveniently, for the success of their respective schools. I would suggest to Prudential Committees the necessity of putting the law in force, requesting teachers to forward their registers to the town committee, and taking his receipt therefor, which they are obliged to do before they can receive their pay; this suggestion is made to enable the committee to give the town a full statistical report, which he cannot do unless all the registers used are returned to him.

### HOW TO IMPROVE OUR SCHOOLS.

As we have before remarked, our schools, taken as a whole, have been prosperous; still, we are convinced that they are not all they should be, and some things could be greatly improved. Let not parents and guardians remain longer in the error that their part of the work ends in attending the school meetings and helping elect efficient committees; this is praiseworthy, but you should go farther; your presence is needed in the school room, by which both scholars and teachers will be encouraged in their work. You should visit the school at least twice every term, not to find fault or pick flaws, but to let your children and teacher know that you are interested in their welfare and success; if you have any suggestion or kind word to offer, do it, and the school will receive a benefit.

We cannot let this occasion pass without speaking again disparagingly of that evil, irregular attendance; during the last winter there has been, as you are aware, a large number of days when, owing to the severe weather and deep snows, it was almost impossible and highly improper for the small and female scholars



living any considerable distance from the school-house to be present; still I am of the opinion that in the majority of the cases of absence in our schools there is no good reason, and could be most entirely stopped by a little effort on the part of the parents. Let us, then, guard against this evil, and use all the means in our power to prevent it.

It is evident to all, that we have too many school districts; some of our schools are too short, which is caused by this excess; enough money is raised by taxation to support our schools in a proper manner, if we had four districts instead of six. Districts No. 3 and 4, should be united into one district, and it is a duty that the citizens of these districts owe to the rising and future generations, to "let bygones be bygones," and bring about this desired union.

Nos. 5 and 6, in point of numbers, should also be consolidated, but they are geographically so situated, that perhaps it would be improper.

#### SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND APPARATUS.

Our school-houses are in good repair, with a proper arrangement for ventilation, except in districts No. 4 and 5, where the improper and unhealthy method of ventilating by raising the lower sash of a window, has to be resorted to. The remarks made in the last report of your Committee in regard to apparatus, could be made with propriety in this, as no movement has been made towards securing the much-needed articles.

#### TEXT BOOKS.

The text-books in use are uniform throughout all the schools, and are a very acceptable series, but we think it would be a great improvement if our geographies and grammars were exchanged for Swinton's lessons on these subjects; we would earnestly recommend to the favorable consideration of our successor, the above-named works.

HORACE M. LANE,

*Superintending School Committee.*

HAMPTON, February 27, 1877.