REPORTS
OF
THE SELECTMEN
AND
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE
TOWN OF HATFIELD,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1876.

NORTHAMPTON, MASS.: STEAM PRESS OF GAZETTE PRINTING COMPANY. 1876.
Selectmen's Report.

In compliance with law and custom, the Selectmen again present to the voters and citizens of the town of Hatfield their annual report.

Beginning the year with a realizing sense of the "hard times," we have endeavored to economize and retrench wherever and whenever it has been in our power to so do. Notwithstanding, in some departments we have exceeded the appropriations made at the annual meeting, as in case of expenditures for the

POOR.

These we have always with us. How much more, then, may we expect to be called upon for aid, when we take into consideration the present financial condition of the country. Business depressed, demand for labor scarce, need we wonder that there should be an increasing demand upon the towns and cities of the Commonwealth for help? And so has it been with us. In some cases, calls for temporary aid, in others, for full support. We mention here the cases of Oliver Vining and family. We found him prostrate, in the last stages of consumption, his family destitute. For them we provided food, medical care, and nurses, until his death. Since then his family have cared for themselves. Wm. Jenkins, no settlement in this State, sick with typhoid fever; Robert Reardon, sick with pneumonia, also a State pauper. For expense on account of the two last we expect to be remunerated by the State.

Have buried, within the year, three persons, Pamela Dickinson, Nancy Morton, and child of Christian Schroeder. The two first are the last of those persons who have been so long supported
by the town, and as a considerable portion of the annual appropriation has been expended for these, it will be seen that for the coming year our expense for the poor will be greatly reduced, other things being equal.

Our expense for that class of paupers known as "tramps," exceeds that of last year, notwithstanding we have made arrangements so that the cost per head has been considerably reduced. The number this year has been 429, against 160 last year. For the first month we paid 75 cents, and since, 50 cents per head, so that the entire cost of keeping these people has been $224.35. We believe it to be an open question whether or not it would be policy for the town to build a lock-up for their accommodation. It certainly would be, if the numbers are to increase during the coming year as they have in the past. In 1875, the Legislature passed an act authorizing the town authorities to compel these tramps to work a certain length of time every day, but that seems to be of no avail to us, as we have nothing that they can do with profit to the town.

**HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.**

At your last annual meeting, the board of Road Commissioners was abolished, and the repairs of highways and bridges placed into the hands of six surveyors, with the exception of repairs of bridges exceeding the cost of $20, which was left to the selectmen, a plan somewhat similar to that adopted some years ago. We believe this has operated successfully, and, so far as we know, satisfactorily.

We report the roads and bridges to be in good condition, with one or two exceptions, viz.: two bridges at Middle Going Over, so called. These will need some repairs soon.

We believe that some reductions may be made in the appropriation for repairs for the coming year, from that of last, and would recommend that the same method be adopted.

**HOOKS AND LADDERS.**

At the annual meeting you appropriated $250 for the purchase of hooks and ladders for use in case of fire, instructing the selectmen to expend the same. This we have done, and in each
school district have placed two ladders, one twenty-five and one eighteen feet in length; also, three hand hooks, and one large hook with rope and chain attached. Have also procured new hose for the Hydraulic Engine. The hooks and ladders are placed as follows:

- Hill District, at School House.
- South Centre District, premises D. W. Wells.
- North " " " C. D. Bardwell.
- West Farms " " Oscar Belden.
- West Brook " " Daniel Vining.
- Pantry " " A. E. Strong.

We have also a forty feet ladder, which may be found on the premises of D. W. Wells.

**INSURANCE.**

We have carried out our instructions in regard to the insurance of public buildings, and at present they stand insured as follows:

- Town Hall, $2,000
- School House, Centre, 6,000
- " " Hill, 3,000
- " " West Farms, 3,000
- " " Pantry, 800
- " " West Brook, 1,000

The aggregate cost has been $264.00. The new policies are all for five years, and all in stock companies.

**CLAIMS OF ELIHU MARSH.**

At the last annual meeting, the matter of claims of Elihu Marsh, for damages on highway, was referred to the selectmen. We have carefully investigated the case, and, in view of the facts, would recommend that the town take no action in regard to the matter.

We present to you herewith a statement in detail of our disbursements for the year ending March 1st, 1876. We hoped that all bills and claims against the town would be presented on or before that time. We believe, however, that there are some that have not been brought in. We would here say to all those interested, that if they would present their claims before the close of the financial year, it would enable the selectmen to pre-
sent a more accurate report, and give the people a clearer insight as to the actual expenses of the town.

Our liabilities at the present time consist of notes held by the Savings Banks in Northampton, amounting to $8,525.00, and outstanding bills to about $500.00. Total, $9,025.00. To offset this, we find in the hands of the Treasurer and Collector assets amounting to $4,787.69, leaving a balance of $4,237.31 as the indebtedness of the town.

**SUMMARY.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notes in Savings Banks</td>
<td>$8,525.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Bills</td>
<td>500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,025.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In hands of Collector and Treasurer</td>
<td>$4,185.05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demand Notes and Interest</td>
<td>602.64</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,787.69</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Indebtedness of the Town</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,237.31</strong></td>
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**EXPENDITURES.**

**PAID OLD BILLS.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adam Doppman, labor highway</td>
<td>$13.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philip Jubenville,</td>
<td>8.71</td>
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<tr>
<td>M. E. Warner,</td>
<td>14.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leander Cooley,</td>
<td>9.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Shumway,</td>
<td>17.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Prince,</td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. W. Kingsley, and material</td>
<td>17.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Pamela Dickinson</td>
<td>66.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Morton,</td>
<td>33.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis Abbott,</td>
<td>33.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Tobin,</td>
<td>31.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oliver Bardwell,</td>
<td>36.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tramps</td>
<td>67.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. S. Crafts, care watering tank</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. E. Wight, care cemetery, West Farms</td>
<td>5.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
A. E. Strong, services selectman, $35 00
Chas. L. Warner, " " 26 00
Jos. Billings, " " 120 00
Support Jane Stone and family, 28 50
" Lewis Beaugor and family, 4 41
" Thos. Fitzgerald, 10 00
C. M. Barton, M. D., med. ser. family Sela Wheeler, 15 00
" " " " " " Hosea Wheeler, 15 50
" " " " " " Thos. Fitzgerald, 16 75
" " " " " " John Fitzgerald, 2 00
" " " " " " Catherine Tobin, 2 00
C. L. Knowlton, M. D., med. ser. Pamela Dickinson, 8 00
G. A. Pierce, M. D., med. ser. removing John Fitzgerald and Catherine Tobin to Insane Asylum, 12 00
W. H. Todd & Co., lock for Town Hall, 2 75
Horace Shumway, drawing coal, 8 50
Dwight Dickinson, damage on highway, 3 75
Myron Harwood, M. D., med. ser. Ashley Wheeler, 16 00
L. S. Crafts, sawing wood,

$692 43

PAID STATE AID.

Mrs. Ruth Dennis, 88 00
" Minerva Anderson, 92 00
" Clara Vining, 48 00
" U. B. Graves, 20 00

$248 00

PAID TOWN AID.

Mrs. U. B. Graves, 34 66
" Clara Vining, 34 66

$69 32

PAID FOR HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

Chester W. White, building bridges, West Brook, $118 00
Chas. N. Coleman, repairing Pine Bridge, 40 00
Moses E. Warner, building bridge, Fitch's Mill, 50 00
" " " labor, 11 00
L. N. Granger, lumber, 34 85
Edward C. Waite, lumber, $22 00
   " " " labor, 8 52
Alvin Sanderson, services surveyor, 50 00
   " " " labor, 42 55
Edwin Brainerd, services surveyor, 34 85
   " " " labor, 27 70
A. J. Cutter, services surveyor, 40 00
   " " " labor, 38 00
Chas. L. Graves, services surveyor, 38 30
   " " " labor, 13 62
Henry G. Moore, services surveyor, 34 31
   " " " lumber, 13 00
John Fitzgibbons, services surveyor, 40 00
   " " " labor, 61 44
Frank Prince, " 27 10
Patrick Doolan, " 1 50
Otis C. Wells, " 3 00
D. W. Wells, " 5 50
L. G. Curtis, " 7 75
John O’Neil, " 12 35
J. D. Billings, " 26 15
David Billings, " 3 75
Jos. Billings, " 11 50
Mack Lamountain, earth, 7 50
E. Hubbard, labor, 13 00
S. G. Hubbard, " 5 50
M. N. Hubbard, " 9 40
C. E. Hubbard, " 7 75
H. S. Hubbard, " 20 50
   " " " lumber, 2 73
J. D. Porter, labor, 6 75
Edward Proulx, " 8 25
Adam Doppman, " 2 50
A. M. Peck, " 75
Leander Cooley, " 9 50
Henry R. Graves, " 5 50
Fred Carl, " 4 00
Philip Carl, " 12 75
Luman Moore, " 3 00
Edwin Kingsley, " 4 72
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>John Ryan</td>
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<td>Elihu Marsh</td>
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<td>Anthony Allair, Jr.</td>
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<td>Peter Pecor</td>
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<td>N. T. Abells</td>
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<td>Henry Wade</td>
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<td>Wm. Kaiser</td>
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<td>George Smith</td>
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<td>H. F. Bardwell</td>
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<td>John St. Peter</td>
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<td>Michael Larkin</td>
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<td>L. S. Bliss</td>
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<td>Jas. Ryan</td>
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<td>Jas. Porter</td>
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<td>George Vollinger</td>
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<td>Jas. Nolan</td>
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<td>Thos. Cutter</td>
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<td>Chas. L. Cowles</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. D. Bardwell</td>
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<td>F. D. Billings</td>
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<td>Chas. Kingsley</td>
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<td>3.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Israel Morton</td>
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<td>1.50</td>
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<td>Mrs. J. T. Fitch</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>12.89</td>
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<td>Francis Teru</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
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<td>M. C. Porter</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. D. Brown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patrick Mullaney</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Ryan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geo. W. Fitch</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>14.19</td>
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Geo. W. Fitch lumber, $93 52
Geo. L. Marsh, labor, 7 68
Chas. K. Morton, “ 4 00
L. Vollinger, “ 67
John Batzhold, “ 1 34
E. A. Bardwell, “ 9 36
“ “ “ material, 4 32
Michael Clancy, labor, 3 00
Matthew Nolan, “ 1 20
Wm. H. Dickinson, “ 22 00
J. G. Ward, stone, 7 40
D. P. Morton, stone and timber, 7 00
Henry Dwight, labor, 3 00
E. M. Martin, merchandise, 1 75
Henry G. Moore, cash paid, 1 85
Erastus Billings, labor, 5 50
O. S. Graves, “ 4 65
Sanford Sanderson, “ 2 25
R. H. Belden, “ 2 00
Oscar Belden, “ 3 00
A. S. Jones, “ 13 75
Francis Mosher, “ 2 00
Eurotus Morton, “ 11 80
Eleazer Cooley, “ 3 50
Dennis Cooley, “ 5 50
John W. Field, “ 1 37
H. H. Field, “ 2 87
E. W. Field, “ 3 45

$1,419 94

PAID FOR SCHOOLS.

Edward C. Waite, wood, $15 00
P. L. Strong & Sons, “ 60 00
Horace Waite, “ 19 00
H. S. Hubbard, and coal, 63 50
“ “ “ cash paid, 17 25
C. G. & F. A. Crafts, coal, 27 18
Geo. A. Billings, “ 111 63
“ “ “ cash paid, 12 90
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>L. McIntire,</td>
<td>coal,</td>
<td>$14 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Graves,</td>
<td>services janitor,</td>
<td>8 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wm. L. Burt,</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>4 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geo. Graves,</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>7 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jos. Gilbert,</td>
<td>sawing wood,</td>
<td>5 50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erastus Strong,</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>7 50</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Powers,</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>12 00</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. R. Whitman,</td>
<td>teaching and board,</td>
<td>349 00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helen M. Nash,</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>98 40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary C. Billings,</td>
<td>&quot; and board,</td>
<td>195 50</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. P. Bishop,</td>
<td>&quot; &quot;</td>
<td>108 00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jane M. Cowles,</td>
<td>&quot; &quot;</td>
<td>195 50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martha Gardner,</td>
<td>&quot; &quot;</td>
<td>220 50</td>
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<td>Hattie C. Billings,</td>
<td>&quot; &quot;</td>
<td>102 00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clara Streeter,</td>
<td>&quot; &quot;</td>
<td>182 00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruth E. Abells,</td>
<td>&quot; &quot;</td>
<td>99 00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. C. W. Billings,</td>
<td>board,</td>
<td>48 00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Albert Marsh,</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>48 00</td>
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<tr>
<td>H. W. Field,</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>40 00</td>
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<tr>
<td>E. A. Bardwell,</td>
<td>merchandise,</td>
<td>12 80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jane M. Cowles,</td>
<td>teaching and board,</td>
<td>119 00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oscar Relden,</td>
<td>cash paid,</td>
<td>22 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wm. Burt,</td>
<td>services janitor,</td>
<td>10 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myron Porter,</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>17 50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruth E. Abells,</td>
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<td>126 00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clara Streeter,</td>
<td>&quot; &quot;</td>
<td>140 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary C. Billings,</td>
<td>&quot; &quot;</td>
<td>119 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geo. A. Billings,</td>
<td>cash paid,</td>
<td>2 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Cutter,</td>
<td>services janitor,</td>
<td>5 00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PAID FOR PAUPERS.**

Support Pamelia Dickinson,  
" Nancy Morton,               | $203 00  |
" Jane Stone and family,      | 193 00   |
" Francis Abbott,             | 211 55   |
" Oliver Bardwell,            | 165 31   |
" Catherine Tobin,            | 169 16   |
" Oliver Vining and family,   | 122 72   |

**$2,655 98**
Thos. Cutter, support tramps, $66.50
N. P. Gould, " " 157.85
Support Lewis Beaugor and family, 28.01
" Christian Schroeder and family, 27.49
" Cynthia Remington, 34.92
" Henry Minke and family, 8 75
" Buckley children, 10 00
" Mrs. Joseph Richards, 5 00
George Hathaway, clothing, 4 50
--- Anderson, 2 00
C. M. Barton, M. D., medical services, Geo. H. Pierce, 5 00
Lewis Goodchild, provision for Lewis Beaugor, 1 60
Joseph Billings, cash paid for paupers, 7 50
Board and care Wm. Jenkins, 58 00
Board and clothing for Lewis Covill, 54 00
Chas. L. Warner, cash paid tramp, 1 50
A. M. Peck, services sexton, 8 00
Support Robert Reardon, 16 50
" Lewis Beaugor, 11 00
" Christian Schroeder, 10 00

$1,757 13

MISCELLANEOUS.

Edward C. Waite, wood for Town Hall, $14.00
Theo. Porter, sawing wood for Town Hall, 2 00
Peck & Pierce, insurance, 264 00
L. S. Crafts, repairs school house, West Brook, 5 00
Star Printing Co., for reports and order book, 50 87
Dexter Jones, repairs Engine House and Town Hall, 3 75
D. W. Wells, services assessor, 43 00
J. D. Porter, " " " 31 25
W. D. Billings, " " " 47 50
" " " cash paid for assessors, 4 50
Bridgman & Childs, books, 5 00
Chas. W. Marsh, care cemetery, West Farms, 5 00
A. M. Peck, " " " 14 75
" " " returning deaths, 9 50
" " " repairs hearse, 1 50
C. H. Jones, repairs Town Hall and school house, 9 00
D. W. & H. H. Bond, legal services selectmen, $33 00
" " " " " " school house building committee, West Farms, 5 00
Trumbull & Gere, for posters, 2 00
H. S. Hubbard, repairs school house, 7 00
Mrs. J. T. Fitch, box for hooks and ladders, 3 00
E. A. Bardwell, services treasurer and constable, 29 00
" " cash paid stationery, 3 00
" " merchandise for library, 1 85
Joseph Billings, expense N. Y. and Springfield, 22 50
Joseph Billings, cash paid, sundries, 8 00
S. D. Porter, services surveyor, 12 00
E. A. Stockbridge, care watering tank, 5 00
A. S. Jones & Son, rent for school room, 20 00
Oscar Belden, freight for desks for school house, 23 61
Mrs. John Leary, cleaning school house, 6 00
James Porter, cash paid clerk board of electors, 2 00
George A. Billings, services school committee, 27 25
Henry S. Hubbard, repairs school house, 6 00
Oscar Belden, services school committee, 30 00
George A. Billings, services school committee, 15 00
W. D. Billings, ser. clerk, cash, express and postage, 30 00
" " " " recording and returning births, deaths and marriages, 32 00

$833 83

PAID FOR FIRE HOOPS AND LADDERS.
C. E. Hartshorn, fire hooks, $132 00
Homer Foote & Co., rope, 21 23
Conn. River R. R. Co., freight, 1 09
J. D. Norton & Sons, ladders, 92 00
A. M. Ball, hose for fire engine, 21 00

$267 32

PAID FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY.
E. J. Cornwell, books and binding books, $25 42
Bridgman & Childs, books, 164 20
" " " " 17 75

$207 37
PAID FOR SCHOOL HOUSE, WEST FARMS.

Lysander Chaffin, labor, $170 00
A. S. Jones, building committee, 2,999 00
Oscar Belden, " " 765 00
Elihu Marsh, board, 65 00—$3,999 00

PAID FIRST PARISH.

D. W. Wells, treasurer, for bell, $350 00

BILLS RECEIVABLE.

Note and interest, John D. Brown, $257 00
" " " Alvin Sanderson, 153 25
" " " D. P. Morton, 192 39—$602 64

BILLS PAYABLE.

Treas. Note, Hampshire Savings Bank, $5,250 00
" " " " " " " " 1,300 00
" " " Northampton " " 1,975 00
Outstanding Bills, 500 00—$9,025 00

RECAPITULATION.

RECEIPTS, 1875.

Anthony Allair, Jr., license, $75 00
H. S. Gere, dog fund, 1874, 77 24
Corporation tax, 77 16
State aid, 386 14
Bank tax, 2,377 89
School fund, 210 95
Paupers, received from State, 18 00
Rent Town Hall, 7 00
Estate Nancy Morton,
" Pamelia Dickinson, 12 01
Balance in hands collector and treasurer, March, 1875, 3,244 47
Assessment taxes for 1875, 15,315 76
Interest on taxes, received from E. A. Bardwell, 28 74
Received from town treasurer, 7 50
H. S. Gere, dog fund, 1875, 86 70—$21,965 41
EXPENDITURES, 1875.

Old bills, $714 88
Paupers, 1,757 13
Public Library, 207 37
'State aid,' 248 00
'Town " 69 32
Schools, 2,655 98
Highways and bridges, 1,419 93
Miscellaneous, 833 84
State tax, 2,140 00
County tax, 2,003 13
Discount on taxes, 456 79
Interest on notes, 530 16
State Treas., one fourth liquor license fees, 18 75
" " error bank tax, 1874, 20 92
School House, West Farms, 3,999 00
Fire hooks and ladders, 267 32
Assessors order of abatement, 88 84
First Parish, for bell, 350 00

$17,781 36

Balance in hands of treasurer and collector, 4,185 05

$21,966 41

JOSEPH BILLINGS, Selectmen
A. E. STRONG, of
CHAS. L. WARNER, Hatfield.

E. A. BARDWELL, Treasurer.

HATFIELD, March 1st, 1876.
ARTICLES IN THE WARRANT FOR TOWN MEETING,
MARCH 20th, 1876.

ARTICLE 1ST. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

ART. 2ND. To choose all necessary town officers for the year ensuing, including one person for member of the School Committee for three years.

ART. 3RD. To choose an Elector under the will of the late Oliver Smith, Esq.

ART. 4TH. To revise and accept the list of Jurors, as submitted by the Selectmen.

ART. 5TH. To hear the reports of the Selectmen and School Committee, and act thereon.

ART. 6TH. To receive and pass on town accounts.

ART. 7TH. To take action in relation to raising money to defray the necessary expenses of the town for the ensuing year.

ART. 8TH. To see what method the town will adopt for the maintenance and repairs of Highways and Bridges the ensuing year.

ART. 9TH. To see if the town will make an appropriation for the Public Library the ensuing year, and choose a Committee for the same.

ART. 10TH. To see what action the town will take in relation to the prompt payment of taxes the ensuing year.

ART. 11TH. To see if the town will raise money to pay the outstanding debts of the town.

ART. 12TH. To see if the town will abate certain taxes committed to E. F. Billings for collection.
LIST OF JURORS REPORTED BY THE SELECTMEN.


APPROPRIATIONS, 1875.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School House, West Farms,</td>
<td>$3,999 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>2,000 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town debt</td>
<td>2,000 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paupers</td>
<td>1,600 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highways and bridges,</td>
<td>1,500 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingencies,</td>
<td>1,000 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Parish,</td>
<td>350 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Library,</td>
<td>250 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire hooks and ladders,</td>
<td>250 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town aid</td>
<td>70 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$13,019 00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
School Committee's Report.

The Town voted $2,000 for the support of Schools the past year. In addition to this sum, there was an unexpended balance in the treasury of $370.11; $210.95 has been received from the State School Fund; the Dog Fund for the years 1873 and 1874, $128.89—all making the sum of $2,609.95.

In presenting a report of the Schools of this town, we feel warranted in stating that an average degree of prosperity has been attained the past year. The number of Schools has been the same as in previous years. There has been little change of teachers, nine being the whole number employed. Of these, five have been retained throughout the year, four of them in the same school. All have seemed to manifest an interest in their work, and labored faithfully.

The amount of money paid to teachers and for board, varies but little from last year's report. Fuel has cost $130 more than last year, owing to the larger amount of coal used in the furnace at the Center School house, and bills paid for wood, that did not properly belong to the current expenses of the year. These bills, with other small items, have increased the cost of our schools a small sum above the appropriation, a fact we were not aware of until the final summing up of accounts. For the school at the Farms the Summer and Fall terms, we were obliged to use a small, inconvenient room, and the scholars, of course, labored under many disadvantages. The Winter term did not commence until December 20th, the new house not being ready for occupancy before that time.

While we speak of the schools as comparing favorably with former years, we are aware that it is possible that a much higher standard of excellence might be attained. The one great drawback to their progress is a general lack of interest on the part of parents. They do not encourage the school by their presence, or
see that their children make the best use of its privileges. This is the prime cause of the great number of absent and tardy marks seen on the Registers. Children are not able to comprehend the importance of always being present and in season. It is the parents' duty to see to that, and teach the good, wholesome lesson of punctuality. This fault has been ably set forth in previous reports, and we believe it should be in all future reports, until it is in some measure remedied, and the scholars in town receive the full benefit of the money expended for their education.

A new school building has been erected at the Farms the past season; $3,999 was voted by the town, for this purpose, at the last annual spring meeting. In addition to this sum, $1,000 in money and work has been contributed by the people of the district, to build and furnish a hall in said building, that might be used for various purposes to meet the wants of the neighborhood. The School Committee were obliged to assume the responsibility of furnishing the school room, the appropriation in the hands of the Building Committee being already exhausted. The cost of furniture was $223.

As a town we are well supplied with good, substantial school buildings, which is an important feature in the foundation of good schools, and which calls for more vigilance in the care of them than has before been given, that they be not defaced or damaged in any way. While this comes within the sphere of School Committee's duties, every citizen has a right, and should not fail to call attention to any thing wrong discovered about the school premises. Repairs on school houses is yearly a large item in town expenses, which ought to be, in a large measure, dispensed with. The present time calls for an economy that shall keep intact what property we have, and to receive an equivalent for every dollar expended either for public or private good.

Number of children in town, according to the assessors' returns, between five and fifteen years of age, 311
No. reported last year, 304
No. of children that have attended school, 299
NAMES OF TEACHERS AND WAGES PER MONTH.

Hill Grammar, Hattie C. Billings, summer, $34 00.
“ “ J. R. Whitman, fall, 36 00.
“ “ J. R. Whitman, winter, 40 00.
Hill Primary, Jane M. Cowles, 34 00.
Center Grammar, Clara Streeter, 40 00.
Center Primary, Mary C. Billings, 34 00.
West Farms, Ellen M. Nash, 32 00.
West Brook, J. R. Whitman, summer, 40 00.
“ “ Martha Gardner, fall and winter, 36 00.
West Hatfield, Mrs. Mary A. P. Bishop, summer, 36 00.
“ “ Mrs. Ruth E. Abells, fall and winter, 36 00.
Amount expended for Teachers, including board, fuel, care of school rooms, with apparatus, 2,655 00.
Amount raised for Schools by tax, 2,000 00.
Amount of unexpended school money in treasury, March, 1875, 270 11.
Received from State School Fund, 270 95.
Received from Dog Fund for the years 1873 and 1874, 128 89.

GEORGE A. BILLINGS,
HENRY S. HUBBARD,
OSCAR BELDEN,

School Committee of the Town of Hatfield.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOLS</th>
<th>Length of school in weeks.</th>
<th>Whole No. of scholars in each school</th>
<th>Average attendance in each school</th>
<th>No. of children under five years of age.</th>
<th>No. of children over fifteen years of age.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hill Grammar</td>
<td>12 11</td>
<td>13 33</td>
<td>31 33</td>
<td>23 23</td>
<td>23 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hill Primary</td>
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<td>14 52</td>
<td>54 42</td>
<td>41 41</td>
<td>42 42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Centre Grammar</td>
<td>12 11</td>
<td>14 37</td>
<td>32 44</td>
<td>30 30</td>
<td>26 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Centre Primary</td>
<td>12 11</td>
<td>14 61</td>
<td>55 47</td>
<td>47 47</td>
<td>44 44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Farms</td>
<td>12 13</td>
<td>14 23</td>
<td>19 26</td>
<td>16 16</td>
<td>15 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Brook</td>
<td>12 10  1</td>
<td>14 30</td>
<td>33 38</td>
<td>23 23</td>
<td>23 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Hatfield</td>
<td>12 11</td>
<td>14 30</td>
<td>38 43</td>
<td>24 24</td>
<td>29 29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>